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SUNA denies Scud report

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government Tuesday again denied that Iraqi Scud missiles are stationed in Sudan for use against Egypt or Saudi Arabia. The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) carried the denial quoting Information Minister Abdallah Mohammad Ahmad who called news reports about the presence of the missiles in Sudan "lies." Sudan's military government repeatedly has denied the reports floated by Gulf newspapers since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last Aug. 2. Western sources in Khartoum who follow military matters closely also have said for months they can find no evidence of such missile placement. Mr. Ahmad attacked the U.S. network ABC News which recently quoted diplomatic sources and Western relief workers as saying Iraq had positioned combat aircraft and surface-to-surface missiles at strategic sites across Sudan.

Algerian leaders head for Iraq, Iran

ALGIERS (R) — The top two leaders of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front, the Arab World's biggest fundamentalist party, left Tuesday for Baghdad and Tehran to discuss ways of supporting Iraq's war effort. FIS President Abbasi Madani was on his way to Tehran and his number two, fiery young preacher Ali Belhadi, was due to meet Iraqi officials in Baghdad, said Ali Djeddi, member of the FIS leadership. "They are on a mission of consultations with officials in the two capitals to consolidate the front of jihad in Iraq through every means possible," he told Reuters. The FIS has been at the forefront of popular support for Iraq now sweeping North Africa. Last month it failed to win Algerian government support to open training camps for volunteers seeking to fight alongside Iraq.

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Iraq: Land battle will be historic

Baghdad under continued blast

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID TUESDAY it was cutting off the sale of fuel to its citizens as officials reported the continuing bombardment of Baghdad, and an Iraqi paper said land battles in the Gulf war would be remembered for centuries.

The Iraqi Oil Ministry, in announcing the suspension of fuel supplies on Baghdad Radio, said: "For organisational purposes, it will suspend the provision of fuel to citizens as of Feb. 4 until further notice."

Oil for heat, gasoline, cooking gas and other fuels have been critically scarce since the war began. Private cars had been limited to 15 litres of fuel every two weeks.

Baghdad residents already are living without electricity and with

only periodic water. Horsedrawn carts have become a prized means of transport, ferrying goods and shoppers to market.

The bombing Monday night and early Tuesday forced residents from their beds into public and private shelters and sent columns of fire and smoke into the air.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said in a letter to Baghdad newspapers that 106 civilians had been killed and 219 others wounded in air attacks on residential areas between Jan. 26 and Feb. 3.

With the latest figures, the official total of civilian casualties since the war started Jan. 17 rose to 428 dead and 650 wounded. Previous casualty figures appeared in a letter Jan. 27 to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

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Cheney, Powell to visit Gulf

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — President George Bush said Tuesday that he was sending Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell to Saudi Arabia this week to get a "status report" on the war.

Mr. Bush said the top U.S. military officials would meet with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, head of the U.S. forces in the Gulf region.

Mr. Bush told reporters at a White House news conference that he was sending Mr. Cheney and Gen. Powell "to get a first-hand status report" of the war, now three weeks old.

Asked whether the visit means that a ground war is imminent, Mr. Bush replied: "No, it doesn't

signal that."

Mr. Bush said that he will not be goaded into committing U.S. forces as Iraq has tried to provoke with a recent Iraqi incursion into Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Bush, addressing speculation that the United States would like to see President Saddam Hussein's removal from power, said "there would be no sorrow if he was not there."

Mr. Bush, asked of the possibility of a ceasefire in the Gulf war, said only a massive withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait would stop the fighting.

"Now we're in a war with this man and he will comply with these resolutions fully, without

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Crown Prince assails U.N. inaction

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday criticised the United Nations for not doing anything to end the Gulf war.

"Where is the U.N.? Have we heard anything from the U.N. on any issue relating to our part of the world since the fighting started? Again, I think this is a question being asked not only in Jordan but in the league and breadth of the Third World, possibly the first world as well. Do we continue with the cycle of violence to a bitter end and then see U.N. coming by humpty dumpty, trying to put the pieces back

together again, or is there room for the U.N. to monitor the decision that it has taken itself," he said in an interview with CBS television.

The Crown Prince also rejected U.S. assertions that the U.N. sanctions committee had not exempted Jordan's oil imports from Iraq from the embargo on Iraq.

"What we had on the 18th of September was a letter from the president of the United Nations Security Council calling upon the secretary general to look into alternative sources of petroleum and to study the effects of the implementation of Resolution

661 on Iraq — which ultimately has become a resolution of sanctions on Jordan," he said. "This was followed by a visit by the special representative of the U.N. secretary general, who presented a full report which was studied on the 17th of November with the secretary general in Paris and again there was no substitute for oil imports from Iraq and he expected that this will mean this year half a billion dollars loss for Jordan, and Iraqi oil imports represent only two thirds of our requirements. This is absolutely a shock to us that military commentators should be saying this is

illegitimate. It is nothing to do with the military; it is a U.N. decision and it simply has not been compensated."

Asked what his reaction was to a State Department statement criticising Jordan's oil trade with Iraq, Prince Hassan said the sanctions were U.N. and not U.S. sanctions.

"If we are talking about the family of U.N. Security Council resolutions, then let us talk about international legitimacy and not about the whimsical statement of

(Continued on page 5)

Rafsanjani optimistic over his reported 7 point peace plan

Combined agency dispatches

IRANIAN PRESIDENT Hashemi Rafsanjani said Tuesday he hoped for an encouraging reply to a message he sent to Saddam Hussein, which would help end the Gulf war, Tehran Radio reported.

Mr. Rafsanjani made the comment in a telephone conversation with Turkish President Turgut Ozal, the radio said.

The broadcast quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying: "I hope to receive an encouraging reply towards liberating Kuwait, and halt further destruction of the Islamic World's resources."

Mr. Rafsanjani sent the message Sunday with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saddam Hamadi.

Mr. Rafsanjani told a news conference in Tehran Monday he was ready to meet President Saddam and talk to Washington to help end the war.

The London-based Kuwait International, a daily paper, said the seven-point initiative called on Iraq to respond to a call by Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, "in his capacity as the leader of the Muslim nation," to withdraw from Kuwait.

Upon the Iraqi president's acceptance to withdraw from Kuwait, Ayatollah Khamenei or Mr. Rafsanjani will visit Baghdad, together with leading Islamic political figures from Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Algeria, Jordan, Sudan and Yemen, who will launch from Baghdad an appeal to the other party in the conflict.

"Iran will do its utmost to convince the U.S. and the Western forces to withdraw their forces from the region at the same time Iraqis start withdrawing their forces from Kuwait," according to the paper. Once this is completed, Islamic forces will be deployed in Kuwait, and a committee comprising representatives from the Gulf countries concerned and other Islamic nations will be composed to discuss the Iraq-Kuwait dispute.

An Islamic fund will be set up to provide funds for the reconstruction of the war-damaged regions. A non-aggression pact among the Gulf countries, including Iraq and Kuwait and probably Turkey and Pakistan will be concluded.

An economic, political and security cooperation agreement among the countries of the region will also be concluded.

A Soviet envoy to the Gulf region would welcome talks with the Iraqi leadership but there are no major peace initiatives in the pipeline, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bologov flew to Tehran Tuesday for talks with Iranian leaders that Moscow hopes will help forge a settlement in the Gulf war.

"I am not saying that Mr. Bologov is bringing any major initiative with him," spokesman Vasily Churkin told reporters after a news briefing.

Asked if Mr. Bologov would hold talks with Iraqi officials, Mr. Churkin said: "If there is interest on the part of the Iraqis and there is an opportunity for that, I am sure he would like to use that opportunity. It cannot be ruled out."

France welcomed Iran's offer to mediate in the Gulf war as very positive, but said it needed to know more details about the plan.

"These ideas appear very positive to us because they are based on a fundamental element which is an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait," Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard told Reuters.

Jordan to buy oil tanker

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Tuesday decided to buy an oil tanker with a 100,000-tonne capacity, an official said.

The official said the Council of Ministers at its regular meeting, endorsed spending \$7.5 million to buy the tanker, expected at Aqaba by the end of the month.

Jordan, has adopted fuel-saving measures and considered alternative suppliers to replenish stocks depleted by the decline in Iraqi supply.

Seven tanker drivers have been killed and 31 tankers destroyed in air raids on the main Baghdad-Amman Highway in allied raids.

A Jordanian team is holding talks in Damascus to buy Syrian oil at market rates — about \$4 a barrel more than the national \$16.40 dollars for Iraqi oil.

Israelis bomb S. Lebanon, kill 8, wound 28

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted Palestinian camps and an office of the pro-Iraqi Baath Party in seven villages southeast of Sidon Tuesday. Police said at least eight people were killed and 28 wounded.

Police said six jets dropped 30 bombs and rockets in the 20-minute raid, which started at 10:30 a.m. (0830 GMT) and was aimed at positions manned by guerrillas of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The planes also rocketed a single storey house used by the Arab Baath Socialist Party in the village of Baitour, east of Sidon, police said.

The Baath Party office in Baitour was levelled, police said.

"But no casualties were reported in it because it was evacuated two days ago," said a spokesman.

The Israeli army said all the jets returned safely.

Police said the fatalities included seven Fatah guerrillas and a civilian. The wounded included six civilians.

The raid was the second by Israel this year. It came one day after a PLO spokesman in Sidon said PLO Chairman and the Fatah leader Yasser Arafat had ordered guerrillas to stop rocket attacks against Israeli targets.

Police said the raid targeted Fatah positions in the villages of Sabra, Homme, Arab Saleem, Qarayeh, Jinnayra and Mharbiyeh in the hills of Iqim Al Toufah. Panic-stricken villagers, some

in their underwear, fled to safer areas fearing more raids.

"Thank God the children were not at home. Otherwise they all would have died," said 40-year-old Mariam Badr, trying to save what was left of her home.

The air raid damaged scores of houses and cars and set farmland ablaze in Iqim Al Toufah. Witnesses said explosions rocked Sidon and columns of black smoke billowed over the area.

The air strike was carried out the day before Lebanese troops and tanks were expected to start taking up positions in the south as part of the government's drive to extend its control over the country.

Security sources said the army would be unable to deploy in the south because the Israeli raid

badly damaged main roads.

Witnesses said the Israeli planes shot up the main road linking Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, and Iqim Al Toufah.

Senior PLO official Anwar Madi, whose home was destroyed by the raid, said: "The attack indicated that Israel will not allow the Lebanese army to spread in the south."

"The size of the raid indicates that there is an Israeli intention to destroy the Palestinian military infrastructure that was rebuilt after the 1982 invasion of Lebanon," a senior Palestinian official said.

"We were expecting retaliatory raids to the rocket attacks but this is different. This is a full-scale air campaign," he said.

Life getting tougher in Kuwait

By John Rice of the Associated Press and Jane Arat of Reuters

RUWEISHED — Gulf war refugees arriving here from Kuwait on Tuesday reported allied bombing raids on oil installations in the emirate turned rain black, threw up clouds of soot and caused refinery fires that raged for days.

They also said telephone, water and electricity still function in Kuwait.

But they said life is becoming difficult as food stocks shrink and allied bombs fall closer.

"It is getting worse every day," said Amer Alia, a 25-year-old Jordanian student.

He said bombing was concentrated away from Kuwait City when the allied attack began on Jan. 17.

Other refugees, however, said life was almost normal even though most businesses and government offices are closed.

"There is no work" said a Jordanian contractor who identified himself only as Taleb.

He said food was available but very expensive. A kilogramme of meat was selling for 20 Iraqi dinars (\$66 dollars), and an 8-10 kilo box of tomatoes for 50 dinars (\$165).

People from Kuwait are braving the allied bomb attacks to visit the Iraqi city of Basra, 160 kilometres (100 miles) to the north. There, they can buy vegetables to bring back to Kuwait for sale on the street.

Basra, the main supply depot for the Iraqi troops in Kuwait, has been one of the most heavily bombed targets of the allied air

assault.

"We couldn't even breathe," said Mohammad, an oil company worker reporting the attacks on refineries. "We could see the fire and there were clouds of smoke. It rained the same day and the rain was black with oil," he said, pointing to his darkened jacket.

U.S. military spokesmen say the anti-Iraq coalition has bombed oil installations in Kuwait to deprive Baghdad's forces of fuel for its war machine.

Mohammad was describing a raid on Jan. 28 on oil installations at Ahmadi, about 20 kilometres south of Kuwait City. "I thought I was going to die that night" he said.

"The Americans are destroying the oil" said Mohammad, 56, a stock checker with the Kuwait Petroleum Company.

"They bombed the oil refineries, they bombed pipelines, they

are poisoning the atmosphere — no one can live there anymore."

U.S. spokesmen say they bombed oil pumps in Kuwait on Jan. 26 to stop the flow of oil into the Gulf that Washington accuses Iraq of starting to foil naval attack.

Mohammad said that after the Jan. 28 raid he decided to leave and return to Jordan.

"There was smoke in the air for days," said Khalil Shawi, a Jordanian teacher who had been in Kuwait for 25 years.

He said all cars around Ahmadi were covered with a film of oil after rain. Another traveller said black water briefly flowed out of taps after the attack.

Refugees said they did not believe U.S. accusations that Baghdad was deliberately pumping oil into the sea from Ahmadi.

"It was horrible from the

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqis, Syrians fight

SAUDI ARABIA (R) — Iraqi ground forces attacked two Syrian military positions Tuesday night, drawing Syrian troops into their first firefight of the Gulf war, allied military sources said.

Details were sketchy but a Saudi military spokesman, Colonel Ahmad Al Robayan, said he thought it was the first time Syrian troops had seen combat since the war erupted on Jan. 17.

U.S. marines said a Syrian position in northeastern Saudi Arabia was overrun by the Iraqis and another came under artillery fire but held its ground, U.S. marines said.

Syrians, like other Arab forces, hold desert positions in the general region of the Saudi centre of Haifa Al Batin.

Although Syria committed troops to the multinational alliance formed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, it said it would not participate in direct attacks against Iraq.



Two of the Jordanians wounded in the allied air attacks on oil tankers in Iraqi territory (photo by Youssef Al 'Alfan)

Israel begins lifting curfew

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army Tuesday began easing the most rigid curfew ever imposed on the occupied territories but barred Palestinian workers from entering the Jewish state.

"The defence minister's policy is to lift the curfew stage by stage in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," said a spokesman.

"It will be much easier for us to continue re-opening and allow them to enter Israel if we stop seeing the phenomenon... of cheering (Iraq President) Saddam Hussein," he told Reuters.

Palestinians in the occupied territories have cheered when Iraqi Scud missiles have been fired at Israel.

"The decision is to lift the curfew where the local commander sees it is possible without an outbreak of violence. Meantime, people are not being allowed to come work in Israel," he said.

The army said the curfew had been lifted in the West Bank towns of Bethlehem, Jericho, Qalqya, and at least during the day in Ramallah and Hebron. In the Gaza Strip, it was lifted in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahiya, Bani

Subeila and several other rural areas.

Earlier Tuesday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) called for world and U.N. action to halt Israel's crackdown on Palestinians since the war began.

Palestinians said the curfew was the most oppressive since the revolt started in the occupied territories in December 1987.

The army said anyone stepping outside his home risked his life. Soldiers moved forcefully to break up protest when curfews were lifted for shopping.

In other developments: An anonymous caller claimed responsibility Tuesday for an arson attack on a British Airways office in Arab Jerusalem on behalf of a group in the occupied territories.

The airline office in Arab Jerusalem was badly damaged by fire late Monday.

An anonymous male caller to a Western news agency said in broken Hebrew: "This is the Black Panthers. We are responsible for burning the British Airways office."

— Israeli police said Tuesday they had arrested 10 Israeli Arabs

suspected of spying for Iraq.

The 10, arrested over the past two weeks, allegedly photographed strategic security installations and had instructions to send Israeli military documents to a PLO handler abroad on behalf of Iraq.

Police last week arrested Sari Nuseibeh, a leading Palestinian nationalist, for allegedly passing information harmful to state security to Iraqi intelligence via the PLO.

Fellow Palestinian activists described the spy allegations as a pretext, saying his arrest was really aimed at quelling the three-year-old uprising.

— Palestinians in the occupied territories will receive gas masks from the European Community (EC), the French foreign ministry announced.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said that the 12-nation community's foreign ministers made the decision Monday in Brussels as part of several emergency measures taken on the Gulf war.

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Saudis may have to ration water because of oil spill

By Mark Fritz
The Associated Press

JUBAIL, Saudi Arabia — This desert kingdom will have to ration drinking water if a syrupy sea of oil spills the single blue lagoon that feeds the world's largest desalination plant, an engineer said Monday.

Saudi Arabia gets two-thirds of its water from its desalination plants, half of it from the one at this coastal city on the Gulf.

If the world's largest oil slick manages to taint the Jubail plant, it would have to be shut down and a water shortage would quickly follow, said Mohammad Sulaiman, the engineer in charge of defending the plant.

"We would not have normal production," he said. "We would have to ration water."

"Perhaps a horror movie should be made of this thing, a big, black, floating thing," said Abdullah Ben Faisal Al Saud, prince of Jubail and a member of the Saudi ruling family.

Workers are deploying an array of booms, skimmers, deflectors and filters at the mouth of the placid Gulf lagoon to try to prevent the oil spill from hitting Jubail's desalination plant.

The slick — which the allies claim was created by Iraq — had been lying idle about 128 kilometres north of this coastal city, but heavy winds were expected to speed its progress south. The spill is now expected to reach Jubail this week.

Prince Saud said the Gulf should be declared "an international disaster area" and appealed for worldwide aid to help contain the spill, estimated at 460 million gallons (1.75 billion litres).

"I'm not sure there is such a designation, but there should be," he told reporters.

The desalination plant in Jubail supplies most of the water to Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, including 80 per cent of the drinking water for Riyadh, the capital. The plant produces 230 million gallons (971 million litres) of drinking water a day by removing salt from briny Gulf water.

As combat jets flew overhead towards Iraq and Kuwait, Saudi officials took reporters on a tour of the heavily guarded plant. Photographers were forbidden from taking pictures of the gargantuan sprawl of pipes and gaping intake ports.

The machinery stretches three kilometres down the coast, sucking water from a lagoon created by a semi-circle of stone breakwaters that branch out into the Gulf. It is this lagoon that must be protected against the oil — something Saudi officials have consistently said they are confident they will be able to do.

"It will be easy to contain, easy to deal with," said Hamid Satahi, operations manager for the 10-year-old Jubail plant.

But environmental experts and Western officials are not nearly as optimistic. They say the oil, now gel-like substance that could be 60 centimetres thick when it reaches Jubail, could splash over booms or flow under them, depending on wind and currents.

A conservative estimate is we're going to be able to protect the system," said U.S. coast guard Lt.-Cmdr. Paul Milligan. "To make a blanket statement that we're not going to get oil, I would never say that."

Coast guard officials are among a team of U.S. experts sent to

Saudi Arabia to advise the government on ways to combat the spill. Japan, Germany, Britain, France, South Korea, Sweden, the United States and Norway have sent equipment, including oil booms and skimmers.

Saudi Arabia has been criticised for confining its efforts to defending the desalination plants instead of attacking the spill offshore. On Monday, Saudi officials said they are acquiring chemicals from the United States to break down the oil offshore.

Environmentalists also have maintained Saudi Arabia is not doing enough to protect wildlife. The spill is expected to kill huge numbers of whales, dolphins, birds, fish and plants. Some species may take decades to recover.

Prince Saud said the spill could cause a 50 per cent mortality rate among sea turtles, manatees, shrimp and commercial fish.

Turtles begin nesting in May on island beaches "and the attack of the oil will be devastating," he said. He said Saudi Arabia plans to establish a centre to rehabilitate sea birds coated with the oil.

Genscher due in Mideast

BONN (R) — German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will visit Egypt and Syria next week for talks on a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement after the end of the Gulf war, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Government sources said Mr. Genscher would make soundings on Tuesday and Wednesday about peace talks which Bonn believes could be modelled on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), launched by the 1975 Helsinki accords.

The CSCE, grouping the United States, Canada and 32 European countries, led to agreements on human rights and arms control as well as on economic and other issues.

Germany has offered to contribute financially to post-war reconstruction in the Gulf and to encourage a Middle East peace settlement that would try to reconcile the interests of Israel and the Palestinians.

Mr. Genscher last week called on wealthy Arab states to spend less on arms and more on helping their poorer neighbours.

Bonn has given financial aid to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, the three states which have suffered most from the economic blockade of Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait last August.

It also persuaded European Community (EC) governments to agree in principle to extend EC financial aid to Israel.

Bonn has unilaterally given money to Israel and promised missiles to bolster its defences against Iraqi attacks and equipment to counter chemical weapons.



An Iraqi child walks past buildings wrecked in the allied bombardment of his country (Al Jumhouriyah photo)

Iraqis paving way for a better Arab future — Jumhouriyah

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The damage is big, the sacrifices are big, but then who said that in order to maintain stability, dignity and sovereignty, you don't need sacrifices, and who better than the Iraqi people to offer these sacrifices?" asked the editor-in-chief of the Iraqi newspaper Al Jumhouriyah, Said Al Bazzaz.

Mr. Bazzaz, who is here on a brief visit, reiterated the stand of the Iraqi people and their firm belief in the cause they are fighting for. "The hardships of this aggression that has befallen the people of Baghdad has boosted their faith in their just cause," Mr. Bazzaz told the Jordan Times.

"No victory could be achieved except with sacrifices and blood, and talk of victory will not only be past victories but the present and future ones as well," he said. "The Iraqi faith in victory is not pinned on a coming future but on a tangible present."

The Iraqi people's confidence stems from a belief that "defeat for Iraq is impossible."

"In our dictionary there is no place for words defeat, surrender or retreat," said Mr. Bazzaz. "Those crazy people who dream they could do that to us don't know that the Iraqi people will never relinquish their rights, but will fight those

who chose to fight them," he said.

"We have only two alternatives. Either we win or we win, either victory or victory," he said, adding that "all that Iraq has done till this point is only an introduction to a severe retaliation."

"When Al Hussein missiles hit Tel Aviv then that is victory, when the sense of Arab nationalism spreads in the hearts of Arabs then that is victory, when the treachery of Arab leaders is unveiled then that is victory," Mr. Bazzaz declared.

"War is around us, and this generation of Iraqis are ready for it," he said. "The Americans will see a multitude of people they have never seen before, who believe in their cause and will fight for existence and the restoration of Arab identity," said the veteran Iraqi journalist.

Describing the American-led assault on Iraq as "a barbaric and cruel aggression aimed against the people of Iraq," he said: "The reason behind this inhuman attack was to stop the wheel of progress because, according to American and Western standard, Iraq has crossed the red line drawn for Third World countries and the developing world."

"The aggressors have failed to reach their goal because the people of Iraq have prepared

for this aggression mentally and physically," he said.

Mr. Bazzaz believes that the Iraqis are capable of fighting their own wars as they have throughout history. "All we need is expressions of support and solidarity from our brothers in the Arab World," he said.

"The Iraqi soldier fighting on the front does not need any on the front does not need any aid. But he would be a much stronger fighting force if he knows that his Arab brothers are solidly behind him."

Mr. Bazzaz is looking for a future "where new values are created and where no single hegemonic power controls the will of people around the globe."

"A future where a new Arab World is created, a world is empty of economic and social injustice, a world where the road to liberty is open a world where the human soul is liberated alongside the Arab wealth and land — this is what we Iraqis are hoping for," he said.

"We will pave the way towards progress, independent decision making and freedom for all," he added. "We will reach this future with a lot of sacrifices, the greatest sacrifices any people can offer."

"We don't fear death, we walk towards it and he who does that defeats it," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghan floods make 3,000 families homeless

ISLAMABAD (R) — Floodwaters that inundated a wide swathe of southwestern Afghanistan and neighbouring Iran have made more than 3,000 Afghan families homeless, the official Bakhtar news agency reported Tuesday. Bakhtar had no casualty figures but said the four helicopters had been sent to rescue people stranded by the floods. In Iran's southeastern provinces, helicopters rescued more than 2,000 people after floods swept through 120 villages and made 30,000 people homeless. Heavy snow in the mountains of northern Afghanistan and Pakistan has hampered efforts to rescue people injured in a strong earthquake that struck the region last Friday.

Six reported dead in Iranian flood

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's official news agency said Monday that six people died in floods that have swept houses in more than 150 villages in southeastern Iran. The Islamic Republic News Agency said the worst flooding in a century had left more than 50,000 people homeless. It said the navy had rushed speed boats to the southeastern province to try to rescue people stranded on rooftops by the swift floodwaters. Army helicopters, in high risk operations, rescued some 2,000 people on Saturday and Sunday, but official decided boats would ease the rescue effort, the agency said.

Tunisians urge France to withdraw troops

TUNIS (R) — Eighteen Tunisian organisations urged French President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday to stop air raids on Iraq and withdraw his troops from the Gulf. The appeal was signed by the General Union of Tunisian Workers, and organisations representing doctors, lawyers, engineers, academics, journalists, writers, students, women, ecologists, human rights and film makers. It accused Mr. Mitterrand of ordering French troops to take part in genocide and "shedding their blood for oil."

More Gulf war refugees flee to Iran

NICOSIA (R) — About 650 Sudanese fleeing the Gulf war crossed into Iran from Iraq over the past two days, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday. It said they were housed in temporary camps after arriving on Sunday and Monday night through Khosravi, the main crossing point in western Iran. The latest arrivals brought to about 2,500 the number of refugees who have fled to Iran since the Gulf war started on Jan. 17. IRNA said last week that 33 Iraqis from three families had sought asylum after crossing into Iran.

Chad and Libya restore air links

NDJAMENA (R) — Former enemies Chad and Libya are to restore air links in their first formal accord since Libyan-backed President Idriss Deby seized power last December. The agreement, which reflects sharply improved relations, was signed in Ndjamena on Tuesday by civil aviation authorities, Chad state television said. One flight will be flown each way between Ndjamena and Tripoli and could rise to three if justified by demand, the television said. Until President Deby's takeover, the two countries had been intermittently at war since 1973, when Libya annexed the Aouzou Strip, a 110,000-square-kilometre stretch of the Sahara desert reported to be rich in uranium. Air links were suspended during the conflict.

CBS crew 'alive in Kuwait'

ROME (R) — A man identified as an arms merchant said Monday a missing CBS television crew was alive in Kuwait and probably would be released soon. Sarkis Sokhanalian, 62, who describes himself as a weapons middleman, told Italian television's Mixer news magazine programme that he had already passed the information to CBS. Joe Peyronmon, CBS vice-president of news, said in New York that the network was made aware of the information through Italian news agency sources but was trying to contact Mr. Sokhanalian personally for verification. CBS reporter Bob Simoli and his three-member crew were reported missing in Saudi Arabia a few days after the Gulf war began on Jan. 17.

Religious leaders urge end to Gulf war

PARIS (R) — Leaders of France's Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths Monday urged a quick end to the Gulf war and said the use of chemical, bacteriological or nuclear weapons was "unthinkable." Representatives of France's three main religions "call on political leaders to try to halt rapidly the Gulf war," said a statement from the chief rabbi of France, the imam of the Paris mosque and leaders of the Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. "It is unthinkable, to defend one's cause, to use means such as chemical, bacteriological and nuclear arms which can only cause massive civilian deaths and damage the earth," the statement added.

Maghreb Red Crescent chief to visit Iraq

ALGIERS (R) — Maghreb Red Crescent Societies decided Monday to send their president to Baghdad to assess Iraqi needs for food, medicine and expertise arising from the Gulf war. Pro-Iraq feeling is sweeping the Maghreb states — Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania — and the societies have been swamped with offers of volunteers and humanitarian aid. Mouloud Belouane, president of the Union of Maghreb Red Crescent Societies, will attend a meeting of the International Red Cross in Geneva Feb. 11 to press for its involvement on behalf of Iraqi war victims. He will then travel to Baghdad, Amman and Tehran to assess Iraqi needs and how food, medicine and blood can be sent to Iraq, delegates to a meeting of the societies in Algiers said.

'War costs Iran billions of dollars'

DAVOS, Switzerland (R) — Iran's economy and finance minister said Tuesday the Gulf war was costing Tehran billions of dollars and the rest of the world did not seem to care. "It seems the world still continues to ignore facts and realities in Iran," Mohsen Nourbakhsh said during the annual World Economic Forum. He said hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, Kuwaitis and other refugees had entered Iran, which had also been hit by higher insurance rates for shipping in the Gulf and the closure of several foreign markets in the region. Other costs included contingency planning for unexpected war developments and the return of many Iranians from Gulf countries, particularly Kuwait. Mr. Nourbakhsh said it was surprising that Iran was not being mentioned by countries evaluating damage caused by the Gulf war. "These losses are estimated at billions of dollars," he said.

Pro-Iraq fervour growing in Maghreb states

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

ALGIERS — Thousands of kilometres from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, millions of North African Arabs see him as a symbol of courage and hope lacking in their own leaders.

A surge in pro-Iraqi sentiment throughout the Maghreb, dramatically illustrated by a mass march in Rabat Sunday, reflects deep resentment against the power of the West and the riches of Gulf Arabs, analysts said.

In Morocco, the biggest street protest since independence in 1956 has put King Hassan under pressure to withdraw his token 1,300 soldiers

have been composed in his honour.

"Since 1948 Arab countries have always been beaten. They feel a deep humiliation faced with Israel backed by the United States. Any Arab leader who shows himself able to confront the West becomes a hero," said Rachid Mimouni, one of Algeria's best-known novelists.

Tunisians distribute photocopies of poems and Hadith (traditions of the Prophet Muhammad) said to predict victory for President Saddam.

The Maghreb fight against French colonialism is still fresh in many minds, particularly in Algeria.

In Algiers, pictures of President Saddam are often posted

from the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq.

The march by some 300,000 Moroccans, organised by leftist and Muslim fundamentalist opposition parties, was an unprecedented challenge to the king's close alliance with the United States and conservative Gulf monarchies and emirates.

It was likely to spur debate over democratic change in the monarchy where King Hassan has held power for 33 years.

A pro-Saddam cult has swept the streets of Rabat, Tunis and Algiers where postcards of the Iraqi president sell like hotcakes.

President Saddam's picture adorns thousands of Algerian cafes, restaurants, homes and cars, poems and pop songs

with those of ex-President Houari Boumedienne, a revolutionary war hero who symbolised resistance to an unjust world order shaped by Western interests.

Many Algerian ex-guerrillas, at the forefront of Iraq support committees, remember Iraq was the first to recognise their Tunis-based revolutionary government in exile in 1958.

Maghreb Arabs are acutely aware of disparities of wealth between them and the West because of their close proximity to Europe. They are bitter over a recent wave of anti-Arab racism in Europe, increasingly closed to Maghreb immigration.

Many admire Iraq's military might and technological prowess.

Maghreb Arabs are impressed

by the level of scientific and technical development in Iraq. They compare it with their own poverty," said Ali Kenz, an Algerian University sociology professor.

There is little sympathy for Saudi Arabia and wealthy Gulf emirates, even though many denounce Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"The Gulf Arabs are seen as spending their money on women, whisky and casinos," said Mr. Kenz.

Tunisia and Morocco were favourite playgrounds of rich Saudis and Kuwaitis. The carousing and conspicuous consumption of some has left a negative image despite substantial financial aid given

Maghreb states by the Gulf.

Baghdad, capital of the Muslim empire for centuries, has a special allure for Maghreb Arabs.

Support for the Palestinian cause is strong and President Saddam's war on the West is widely seen as the only hope for advancing Palestinian state after years of apparently futile concessions to Israel by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Pro-Iraqi fervour has swept the political spectrum and Muslim fundamentalists, despite reservations over the secular state President Saddam leads, have been at the forefront of street protests in Algiers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

06:04 Fajr
06:22 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:59 Dhuhr
14:51 'Asr
17:17 Maghreb
18:36 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 817440
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 62383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

WEATHER

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683265
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Amman 61 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.
It will be partly cloudy and relatively cold.
Min./max. temp.
Amman 2 / 12
Aqaba 9 / 20
Deraia 1 / 14
Jordan Valley 7 / 19
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Isam Hawatmeh 624830
Dr. Mohammad Sawra 730056
Dr. Munzer Qasbi 786258
Dr. Khaldoun Klob 826919
First Pharmacy 651912
Fardous pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nawroth pharmacy 63672
Al Saleh pharmacy 637730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeizani pharmacy 637660
DUBAI:
Dr. Isam Al Saleh (-)
Al Shama Pharmacy (275825)
ZARQA:
Dr. Khaldoun Al Jar' (-)
Khaldoun pharmacy 985417
AMMAN 61 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630461
Rescue 630461
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 680321
Hotel Complaints 638800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 87467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623701

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hamada Medical Centre 818613/32
Khaldoun Maternity, J. Am. 642616
Akhil Maternity, J. Am. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafsa, J. Amman 636140
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 63681
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alla Intl. Airport 06-53200
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ras Sin Hospital (09)985732
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ras Al Nafoos Hospital (02)274700
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Sls per kg.
Apple 550 / 480
Banana 300 / 450
Banana (Makassar) 450 / 400
Beans 300 / 400
Cabbage 100 / 50
Carrot 200 / 150
Cauliflower 300 / 250
Corn 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 250
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 1600 / 1400
Lemon 240 / 180
Marrow (large) 140 / 100
Marrow (small) 320 / 240
Onion (dry) 270 / 220
Onion (green) 180 / 120
Okra 400 / 300
Orange 480 / 300
Pepper (hot) 340 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 250 / 150
Potato 140 / 100
Radish 100 / 50
Sage 400 / 300
Spinach 140 / 100
Tomatoes 190 / 120

Disruption in air transport threatens evacuee repatriation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of the evacuee welfare committee Tuesday complained that the present travel facilities available at Aqaba port would not be sufficient and appropriate to repatriate all the evacuees should air transport operations remain at a standstill.

Salameh Hammad said that evacuees arriving in Jordan from Iraq would normally stay in the Kingdom for a few days awaiting means of transport to take them to their home countries but the problem would be severely aggravated should the number of evacuees increase while the means of transport for repatriation be restricted to the port of Aqaba.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Hammad said that there was only a trickle of evacuees arriving in Jordan from Iraq at the moment and this helped the committee to have control over the repatriation operation.

Officials said Monday that about 3,150 evacuees, including about 430 seeking political asylum in a third country, remained in Jordan awaiting flights out, normally arranged by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

These, the officials said include Sudanese, Egyptians, Moroccans and Filipinos as well as a few Somalis and Iranians.

Among those returning to Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait were also many Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but most of them are barred from returning to their homeland by the Israeli authorities under the pretext of security,

Hamad said in his statement to Petra.

The Israeli authorities are making it almost impossible for the Palestinians to return to the occupied territories across the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges through which the Israelis are allowing only very few people, mostly old men and women, Hamad noted.

Palestinians trying to return to their homeland, he said, have had a traumatic experience getting back to Amman from the Gulf.

Many of them lost their savings or their property and cannot make arrangements for their stay in Jordan, Hamad said. Furthermore, Israeli permits they carry have either expired or about to, while their relatives are unable to help them get through because of the blanket curfew imposed on the occupied lands.

Hamad said that the Israeli authorities seem to be facilitating the departure of Palestinians from the occupied areas while obstructing their entry on their way back with the purpose of evacuating the occupied Arab lands. According to Ahmad Qatnani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, only 438 people were admitted across the King Hussein bridge and 350 across the Prince Mohammad Bridge between Jan. 21 and 31, and almost double these numbers were allowed not across the two bridges. Qatnani, whose office takes charge of the Palestinian affairs in Jordan, described the Israeli authorities' measures as tantamount to mass deportation of Palestinians.

House convenes today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament is due to hold a session Wednesday. House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat is expected to chair the session and Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet members will provide replies to queries raised by the House on a host of issues.

A statement by the House Tuesday said that the agenda included the government's replies to questions relating to health services and specialised medical services in a number of provinces and districts as well as the posting of specialists and nurses in government-run hospitals and the Health Ministry's plans with regard to the Al Hussein Hospital in Salt.

According to the statement, the agenda also includes replies from the government to proposals made by deputies about the prospect of developing and improving the tourist and forestry region in Shafa, the setting up of an agricultural insurance company to offer compensation to farmers during years of drought or damages resulting from natural causes like the bad weather. The proposals also include expanding agricultural extension services and the distribution of tractors, in an attempt to improve the productivity of farmers and remove forest fires from their farmlands.

The House will hear a report from its legal committee on the draft law on economic crimes as presented by the government to Parliament. Several amendments have been introduced to this draft law by the committee.

The House will also hear a report from the emergency committee on its activities.

Austria aids Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Austrian government last week gave additional aid to Middle East countries affected by the Gulf conflict, donating \$1 million to the "Regional Humanitarian Plan of Action relating to the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait," agreed upon by the various UN relief organisations in Geneva on Jan. 11. Under this plan Jordan is the main beneficiary.

In September 1991, Austria contributed over \$1 million for the same purpose through the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the U.N. Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRO).

An additional \$2.4 million will also be donated by Austria to the International Committee of the Red Cross for a mobile field hospital for victims of the Gulf war.

Within the framework of international support for the Jordanian economy Austria has provided \$9 million for development projects in the country.

As a neutral country and herself in a frontline position with regard to waves of refugees coming from Eastern Europe, Austria has always shown deep understanding and a strong engagement in humanitarian problems. A member of the U.N. Security Council and president of its Sanctions Committee, Austria has left no doubt that it backs UN decisions urging Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, at the same time pleading for a negotiated solution of the conflict.

Foreign Minister Alois Mock recently announced that Austria wanted to put forward a Middle East peace plan which would include a disarmament conference similar to the Vienna talks on the conventional forces reduction in Europe as well as a multi-lateral non-proliferation treaty covering all non-conventional weapons.

American embassy car set on fire

AMMAN (R) — Unidentified persons set on fire the car of the American military attaché in Amman Tuesday, security sources said.

"Someone poured fuel on the American embassy car and set it on fire while it was parked in an Amman neighbourhood," one security source told Reuters. It was not immediately possible to confirm the report.

The security source told Reuters the military attaché was not in the car and the fire was immediately contained.

Farmers, milk factories reach agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Cattle farmers and milk factories Sunday reached an agreement under which farmers will provide the factories with fresh milk from Feb. 5 until Dec. 31. According to the agreement dairy factories will use their own means to transport milk from the farms to the factories.

The agreement fixed the price of a kilogramme of milk at 210 fils. The price, however, will only change by virtue of a cabinet decision.

The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh. The minister voiced satisfaction for the conclusion of the agreement.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Tuesday meet the Gulf peace team (Petra photo).

Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath receive Gulf peace team

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Sunday expressed deep concern about the casualties among civilians in the Gulf, and appealed to the warring parties to take into consideration human suffering due to the war. The Prince and Princess made the appeal during a meeting with a Gulf peace group. The head of the group praised the unique role Jordan is playing to reach a peaceful settlement for the crisis.

The team members voiced dismay at the scale of hostilities and devastation in the Gulf region, saying that the continuation of war will bring about more destruction and loss of civilian lives. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra the team members said they would continue their efforts to convince their governments and public opinion of the need to find a peaceful end to the Gulf war.

"One of the objectives of our current mission is to set up two peace camps in Jordan in an effort to prevent the expansion of war, and to go back to the peace camp in Iraq, when circumstances permit," one team member said. The team pledged to send medical aid and supplies to civilian population in Iraq, in cooperation with the various parties in Jordan, particularly the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Motorists comply; number of violators reported

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanians Tuesday almost fully adhered to the government decision to restrict the use of cars to save energy, the director of the Traffic Department, Ahmad Dmour said Tuesday.

Dmour, said however, that his department had seized some cars for violating the decision. He said the decision, affected about 175,000 private cars, half of which, did not run Sunday.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra Brig. Dmour said the decision had resulted in positive effects, like the easing of traffic jams, reduction in car accidents, and increased demand on public transport.

Brig. Dmour said the decision excluded cars owned by disabled persons and military vehicles irrespective of their plate numbers.

Cars of those arriving in Jordan from abroad will be exempt until they reach their destination. Cars belonging to members of both houses of parliament, which carry the House plate numbers are also exempt.

Dmour said the decision covers private cars, carrying white plates, cars carrying temporary admission plates and cars carrying foreign plates. The cabinet's decision aroused public controversy about its feasibility and cost-effectiveness, according to Arabic dailies.

To assess the situation on the first day Transport and Telecommunication Minister Jamal Saraiheh, accompanied by the Public Transport Corporation Director General Sulaiman Hababbeh, made an inspection tour in a number of areas. After the tour, Minister Saraiheh said that people responded favourably to the decision and demonstrated their desire to rationalise the use of energy by sharing their cars willingly. The minister noted that initial reports about the enforcement of the decision were encouraging and were showing that people adhered to the decision.

Palestinians agonise under prolonged Israeli curfew

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian people under Israeli occupation are being subjected to continued atrocities, and their lives are made more miserable in view of the blanket curfew imposed by the Israeli authorities, a senior PLO official said Tuesday.

"People are being shot and killed for curfew violations that amount to nothing more than appearing at a window or standing on the balcony of their homes," Palestine Liberation Organisation executive committee member Muhammad Milhim said at a press conference yesterday. Milhim said the 20-day-old curfew has been enforced by the Israeli occupation authorities ostensibly to prevent demonstrations or other anti-Israeli action and the Israelis have prevented international media representatives from visiting the Arab areas.

Milhim strongly criticised the United Nations and the international community for their silence over Israel's atrocities, mass detention of civilians and curfews. The blanket curfew imposed on 1.7 million Palestinians has not drawn the concern of the world community and no voices have been raised to put an end to the atrocities, he said.

Milhim showed journalists

photographs from the occupied lands showing the consequences of the continued curfew on the cultural, economic and health well-being of the Palestinian people. He said that 120,000 workers have been cut off from their livelihoods and thousands of farmers have been deprived of the right to cultivate their lands, which led to the total collapse of the farming season.

Not only have essential commodities been missing from shelves but also sick people are not able to get medical attention at a time when most of the people are short of cash to buy their needs, Milhim noted.

The Israelis have imprisoned prominent personalities like professor Sari Nusseibeh of Beir Zeit university and Al Aqsa Mosque preacher Muhammad Al Jamal in a bid to stifle the resistance. It also obstructed the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which provides basic services to the refugees, Milhim added.

Milhim said that the Israelis have so far detained 18,000 Palestinians in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 which provides protection for civilians under occupation rule.

The Israelis have subjected everybody, even lawyers, to the blanket curfews, banned visits to

the detainees and continues to carry out atrocities against the Palestinian civilians, Milhim noted. He said that the PLO has learnt that the Israelis have distributed Arab detainees around the Dimona nuclear plant in South Palestine and other military and strategic positions to serve as human shields. Milhim said that the PLO is exerting all efforts to ensure the provision of food supplies to the refugees and is at the same time holding contacts with the Security Council to convene a meeting that would discuss the current situation in the occupied Arab lands.

The Palestinian people have the right to carry out resistance against the Israelis anywhere in the world as long as their homeland remains occupied, Milhim said.

"We have only one enemy who had demolished our homes and evicted our people from their towns and villages, destroyed our crops and continues to occupy our land, and therefore we have all the right to resist this enemy and his actions by all available means, Milhim said.

Milhim who heads the PLO's occupied lands department said that the recent Palestinian rocket attacks on northern Palestine should be regarded as part of the war of attrition being waged against the Israeli enemy.



Cars violating the restriction on private cars movement are being held by police Tuesday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alham).

Restriction on car use draws more complaints

By Serene Halasa
and Nur Safi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government decision to restrict the use of private cars enters its second day today. Only cars with plates ending with odd numbers were running yesterday. The decision, in effect for one day only, has generated many complaints from people who were not able to drive their cars.

"I was looking outside my window watching a woman trying to flag down a taxi. I noticed that it took her about half an hour," Nader said he observed from his house in Sweifish.

"It's a stupid, selfish law. It only serves the rich and privileged who can afford to buy more than one car," a young woman in downtown Amman said. A passerby who overheard the conversation, cut in saying "government cars represent 20 per cent of the total number of cars in the country, why don't they set an example to the public by applying this law on themselves?"

The conversation drew more crowds who criticised the decision. One man who refused to give his name said: "If the prime minister wants us to do without the luxury of our cars in these difficult times like this, let him try to take a taxi to work every other day," he said.

"This decision is a result of the absence of any long term planning," Ahmad, a grocer told the Jordan Times. He observed that on the outset of the Gulf crisis,

the government allowed in Kuwait cars without regulating or monitoring their consumption of gasoline. "A lot of these cars are American-made and consume lots of gasoline. A majority of these car owners have money and no work, so they drive around all day consuming large amounts of gasoline," he said.

Many people, however, chose to defy the restriction. "We stopped five cars only this morning," a traffic policeman, who stood at the entrance of the Jordan Times offices on University road Tuesday said. According to the policeman, it was necessary to control the oil consumption, but, he thought, there were other better, more suitable solutions. "I think that the government will eventually adopt another proposal like the use of coupons for example," he said.

In a statement Monday, Prime Minister Mudar Badran asserted that the government will study the coupon proposal and will decide on the most suitable option in light of the experiment itself.

Some drawbacks of the decision were evident from the first day. "I have a night shift, and on Monday I drove my car to work and today (Tuesday) I can't drive it back. This is really ridiculous," a hotel employee said.

Another employee who works for Jordan Television and lives in Jabal Amman said, "I am spending a lot of money going back and forth. And although transportation is available, it takes a very long time."


25 years of housing development in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Jordan has released a report about housing in Jordan, outlining 25 years of cooperation with the Housing Corporation in this regard.

One of the challenges that have faced Jordan in the last 25 years was the development of housing schemes to meet the needs of growing population, the UNDP report said. It said that UNDP

responded to the needs of the country and cooperated with the government towards the establishment of the Housing Corporation, the organisation responsible for planning and constructing low-cost housing projects for middle and low-income groups.

Experts sponsored by UNDP cooperated with the Jordanian counterparts between 1968 and 1977



ARAB BANK

Arab Bank Has The Pleasure To Announce
The Opening of New Offices in

Tareq Municipality Al Hussein Camp Ramtha Petra

**Banking Services Started on
Saturday February 2, 1991**

Arab Bank
Tareq Municipality Office
Tareq Street
P O Box 8348 - Jabal Hussein
Amman
Tel. & Fax 692143

Arab Bank
Al Hussein Camp Office
Alawdah Street
P O Box 8348 - Jabal Hussein
Amman
Tel: 612951

Arab Bank
Ramtha Office
Nasser Al-Tallaq Street/Ramtha
P O Box 16 - Irbid
Tel: (02) 282761 - (02) 282762
Tel. & Fax: (02) 282763

Arab Bank
Petra Office
Petra City Visitors Centre
P O Box 135 - Ma'an
Tel: (03) 83435
Tel. & Fax: (03) 83436

Jordan Times

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Established 1975

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The enemy within

IF "THE present is the past rolled up for action, and the past is the present unrolled for understanding," and if history is any guide, then the war in the Gulf has to be seen in some historical perspective. U.S. President George Bush, thinking that his vision of the new world order could not possibly materialise by a gentleman's agreement with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has determined that his superpower had to achieve so decisive a victory against Iraq as the only means through which his country would be able to dictate and enforce international law, just as Rome did from Augustus to Aurelius.

History will recall that President Bush did not give peace a chance before he unleashed his military might against a Third World country of only 18 million people. According to two eminent American political psychologists, Bush demonised and dehumanised his adversary to the point of making sure that Iraq was left with no incentive to answer pleas for withdrawal and reconciliation. The U.S. president relied exclusively on the threat of force and paid only lip service to the diplomatic option, completely disregarding Iraqi grievances and claims and repeated attempts at focusing world attention on the real problems of the Middle East.

Bush all the time screamed for "unconditional surrender" by Iraq, forgetting the cultural framework in which the word "surrender" would echo like thunderous warnings of loss of dignity for an Arab nation that has thought of nothing else but independence from foreign remote control and subservience to the master from the West.

The allied nations compounded this gap in understanding by not only waving the stick but also by unleashing a barrage of resolutions supported by the 500,000 warriors all pulling at the rope that was to strangle the "aggression" in the hope that the word "surrender" would escape the mouth of adversity while on his death bed. But what is this new world order in which the voice of the desperate is drowned in favour of the force of the strong? The U.S. president said he wanted to go the extra mile for peace but then refused to budge an inch from the "no negotiations, no face-saving, no linkage" position except that his words became louder and perhaps were heard at an extra mile and were later crowned with the "I am fed up" finale.

When President Hussein said that he wanted a meeting with President Bush "in which the eyes would meet," Mr. Bush's eyes were fixed in the other direction still diverting attention from dialogue and concentrating on the only option the American president left for himself, force, as the two American psychologists said. History will show that the U.S. president prepared the trap in which he himself will be caught. Although his sworn objective in the Gulf is that of "kicking Saddam out of Kuwait, it is quite possible that that aim might not be achieved at all. But even if it was, events will show that what was achieved through destruction, loss of human life, environmental disaster, fragmentation of inter-nations relations, misery and political upheaval in the region could have been more easily, less painfully accomplished and months before.

As Senator George Mitchell, the U.S. Senate majority leader, recently observed, we will never know whether sanctions and diplomacy could have achieved for the U.S. what it has sought to do through destruction and war. It might be difficult for President Bush to take back his decision, swallow his pride and stop the war unconditionally now. But it is certainly much more difficult and costly for him, and everybody else, to press on with this mad and stupid war.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday accused the U.S., British, and French government of providing false information about the outcome of public opinion polls and surveys being held in the West. The official version about the results of these polls is that the Western masses are oriented against Iraq and the people themselves have decided to wage war on Iraq, the paper noted. It said that with this false information, the Western governments are trying to present the American, British and French people and not themselves as enemies of the Arabs and Muslims inviting the Arabs and Muslims to take vengeance on the people of the West rather than the governments and their leaders who have been killing innocent children and old men and women in Iraq. The paper said that this is indeed a dangerous game because it is bound to deepen hatred among nations and tamper with human feelings. Suppose that these polls are correct, then no one should blame the Arabs and Muslims if they find vent to their wrath on Western interests, and no one in the West can anymore describe attacks by Arabs and Muslims on Westerners as terrorist actions, because such attacks could come in self defence and in retaliation for the Western hatred, killing and other atrocities, the paper noted.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday welcomed government efforts to save fuel and enable the public to adapt to austerity measures required under the present difficult circumstances. Mahmoud Rimawi says by offering sacrifice by not using private cars, the people of Jordan cannot only show solidarity with the Iraqi people but also feel part of the hardships their brothers and sisters in Iraq are facing at the moment. The writer, however, noted that Amman and other towns and cities lack a proper network of public transport which had prompted people to buy private cars, adding to the economic burdens they normally endure. Had there been a good network of public transport most people would have opted for them to save gasoline and to avoid problems related to cars and the risk of accidents, the writer adds. He says that Jordanian people especially those who live in Amman should realise that with the presence of cars they had abandoned the old social way of life and even the good exercise of walking; and perhaps the new measures would help restore the good social ties among the people who should cooperate to overcome this emergency.

Ecopolitical Forum

When birds matter more than Arab civilians

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

LAST Wednesday, a number of jet fighters of the alliance for the destruction of Iraq attacked and burnt several civilian Jordanian vehicles and nine oil tankers travelling along the international highway linking Iraq with Jordan during daytime. Thus the pilots of these jet fighters made their contribution to the "liberation" of Kuwait and to the translation of the international legality into facts on the ground, although one needs very wild imagination to figure out how bombing civilian Jordanian vehicles and citizens is causally linked with that liberation.

To intellectuals and sober observers here, those attacks testify to the fact that the U.S. is, in essence and origin, a violent and savage society and, in the present Gulf war, it is proving to be a barbaric one as well. The so-called American democracy is tailored only for Americans and domestic use. When the Americans talk about the value of human life and about the human being as being an end in himself, following the democratic philosophical theorisation, they have in mind only American lives and American individuals and probably other Westerners. Arabs, for example, are apparently not allowed into this American paradise of democracy as the bombing and killing of Jordanian and Iraqi civilians suggests.

The Jordanians believe that there were objective reasons which made the Iraq-Kuwait dispute flare into the violent twist it took on August 2, 1990. These reasons have to be addressed. This is why they did not believe that the unconditional withdrawal formula would work. They had supported U.N. Security Council resolutions including the withdrawal from Kuwait but they believed that war was not, and will never be, the right means to achieve that end. The Jordanians have all along expressed their opinions along these lines.

George Bush apparently could not tolerate this expression of opinion and sent his planes to knock out Jordanian civilian targets after demolishing Iraqi civilian neighbourhoods. He has been boasting that the whole world look his side in his confrontation with Iraq. Very well; he has that overwhelming majority. The voice of Jordanians and of some very few countries represented the opposition. How come then that Mr. Bush's new world order which is based on democracy failed to tolerate the opinion of that very slim minority made up of Jordan and one or two other countries? Even inside the United States itself, there are persons who take a stand similar to that of the Jordanians.

The fact that Jordan imported oil from Iraq was not a secret but a well-known and widely accepted fact by all parties including the American administration and U.N. Sanctions Committee. If a new idea has suddenly dawned on Mr. Bush and his field commanders under which they found that Jordan must halt its oil imports from Iraq because that was vital to the liberation of Kuwait, he should have asked Jordan to do that through diplomatic channels or at least civilised means. In choosing to bomb civilian targets instead of that, Mr. Bush must have been responding to the instincts of savagery and violence buried under his skin and behind the thick guises of democracy and false civilisation.

And Mr. Bush knows very well that the economic blockade on Iraq has been violated, officially and unofficially, by other countries surrounding Iraq. Nevertheless, his jet fighters chose only to bomb the civilian targets of the tiny Jordan and pretended that he knew nothing about other violations. Again, Mr. Bush have an additional evidence of an American Middle East policy firmly anchored on

double standards.

Under international law, Jordan is not obligated to observe sanctions which hurt it more than the others. That was very true of our oil imports which have been financed from our debts on Iraq. And Jordan could not afford to import oil from other sources at market prices without seriously endangering its economic security as this would drain its meagre foreign exchange reserves which are saved to finance the importation of foodstuffs and other basic goods and services. During the first four months of the crisis, Jordan virtually had no foreign exchange to finance oil imports from any sources other than Iraq. Saudi Arabia, you remember, shut down the tapline because Jordan failed to come up with the necessary cash.

The tiny Jordan has nothing to offer Iraq in the face of the war of destruction Mr. Bush has been waging against it. The bombing of Jordanian civilians is therefore nothing more than brutal punishment to Jordan for expressing its opinion towards the crisis and the war. It is also a shocking reminder of how Mr. Bush is going to manage his new world order and to discipline countries and nations that may differ with the United States. The oil slick in the Gulf shocked the hypocrite West because it killed one or two birds. So far no Western government has decried the bombing and killing of Jordanian and Iraqi civilians, the inevitable conclusion is that, to the West and our American "friends," birds matter more than Arab civilians.

"Latest news dispatches have indicated that the tankers were bombed because they transported parts of Scud missiles. Experts ridicule this American allegation because it is not possible in practical terms. Moreover, why should the Iraqis, in this case, hire Jordanians to drive these tankers?"

Iraq, Israel and the new strategic reality

By Dr. Marwan Rateb Asmar

THE war waged on Iraq by the allied forces marked a turning point in the history of the Middle East. Iraq no longer came to be seen as the aggressor, moving its troops in and annexing a sovereign state, namely that of Kuwait, but came to be viewed by the majority of Arabs as the champion of Arab nationalism and a liberator of the poor whose labour had been held hostage by despotic oil-rich sheikhs in the Gulf.

The invitation of American troops evoked among the masses memories of colonial rule and subjugation. Worst still, the stationing of primarily American, British and French troops on Saudi soil inflamed the Arabs in what was widely seen as an act of

sacrilege to the Muslim faith. Mecca is a holy place in Saudi Arabia in which no "infidel" may enter and therefore the presence of foreign troops in the area constituted a violation of Islamic Sharia law, in which the "infidel" must be severely punished.

The presence of foreign troops and more precisely its attacks on Israel by Iraqi Scud missiles (something that had never happened before), not only inflamed public opinion to the support of Iraq, but also removed any doubts that the Arab intelligentsia may have had about such support. The issue simply became about questions of denials, human rights and the legitimate grievances of the

Palestinians: something which the world found convenient to ignore.

The attacks on Israel must be seen in this light. From the Arab point of view the missiles were seen more as a symbol to redress the injustices and humiliation suffered by the Palestinians for the last forty years. Following the successive defeats of the Arabs resulting in the total loss of Palestine, after 1967 coupled with the ascendancy of what was seen as Israeli military might, the Arab Nation was at an all time ebb, questioning its destiny, identity and its very existence.

The constant Iraqi attacks on Israel have changed all that. Arab public opinion for the first

time has come to feel self-confident, strident and assured of victory, and in achieving an independent Palestinian state. Israel for the first time was running scared, unable to comprehend the fact that its military superiority was for the first time being challenged. The long-term implications for the security and very existence of the state of Israel was overwhelming. This was for the following reasons.

First, Israel was no longer seen to be untouchable, geographically protected by her once military invincibility. For the first time doubts were cast about this large military machine and its failure to protect ordinary Israelis in the light of incoming

Iraqi missiles.

Second, this last point brought home the realisation to Israeli policy-makers and the ordinary public that in times any state in the Middle East given its proper warfare technology could point such missiles to Israel. If Iraq could develop and adapt missiles then other countries such as Syria, Egypt, even Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states could all acquire such rockets.

Third, the acquisition of such technology would make Israeli security very vulnerable. This would mean that the Israeli's theory of deterrence that is based on military superiority would become seriously flawed since it would no longer become credible. The element of threat which is essential to the credibility of deterrence would no longer be there.

Fourth, Israeli policy-makers have in the past strongly argued that the retention of the West Bank and Gaza gives Israel more strategic depth vis-a-vis its neighbouring countries. The West Bank and Gaza would serve as buffer zones against invading armies and give Israel more time to defend itself. However, the incoming missiles have shown how flawed this argument was, since no infantry would be needed in any possible future conflict, but the emphasis would be on air technology.

From the above it can be argued that very nature of Israeli

military doctrines of superiority, deterrence, strategic depth have all come to be questioned. Whatever the outcome of the war against Iraq, Israel would have to change its perceptions about the Middle East. Its military doctrines flawed as they are would have to take into account the changing circumstances and the new strategic environment and military parity that have come to exist between different states in the Arab World. These new circumstances given time, must force Israel to adopt an approach to international and regional problems based on greater realism rather than to the belligerent power politics approach it has always adhered to. What is meant by that is that Israel would have to learn to live with the rest of the Arab World as an equal and to sit with the Palestinians via an international peace conference and grant them an independent state. These two factors must be realised by Israel because they guarantee its security, and possibly its very existence.

However, for the time being, Israel is choosing to forget this new realism based on changing strategic realities in the region. Instead, it prefers to continue to carry out acts of terrorism in southern Lebanon against the poor and defenceless to convince itself that it is still a major power in the area, and prolong its false sense of security.

New Israeli minister wants Arabs to leave

By Marjorie Olster
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Retired General Rehavam Zeevi is set to join the Israeli cabinet as the first minister who advocates the expulsion of Arabs from the occupied lands.

The Israeli government approved Zeevi's appointment as minister without portfolio on Sunday and he is virtually assured of parliamentary ratification on Monday.

His Nickname is Gandhi, not because of any commitment to non-violence but because army comrades thought the wiry youth physically resembled the Indian activist.

The platform of his Moleket (homeland) Party closely resembles that of slain militant Rabbi Meir Kahane who Advocated the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Kahane's Kach Party was barred from parliament as racist in 1988, the year Zeevi, 64, was elected to parliament.

Political analysts say Moleket, formed shortly before the November 1988 elections, was buoyed by supporters of Kahane's banned party. It won two seats in the 120-member parliament.

Like Kahane, Zeevi has frequently appeared on the scene of Arab attacks against Jews to rally support for his anti-Arab views.

But Zeevi, part of Israel's military establishment, is regarded as more acceptable by Israelis than the U.S.-born Kahane was.

Zeevi has said he favours a "voluntary transfer for peace" of all Arab residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But his critics say transfer is just a euphemism for expulsion.

"We have to say out loud this, land belongs to the Jews, because we have seen all over the world

that where two people try to live on the same land the result is bloodshed," Zeevi said during the 1988 election campaign.

"God made the land of Israel one geopolitical entity."

On the eve of the cabinet vote, Zeevi said he hoped Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union would end Israel's reliance on cheap Arab labour from the occupied territories.

"We will get rid of the Arab population of the territories. Instead, we will have Jews that will come from the Soviet Union. They, we and our children will do the job."

Zeevi is one of the few members of parliament who openly oppose the government's decision not to retaliate immediately for Iraqi missile attacks in the Gulf war.

Opponents of his appointment say it could jeopardise Israel's newly earned international goodwill and complicate post-war

peace efforts with Palestinians.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir apparently recruited Zeevi to reinforce his narrow majority in parliament. Zeevi's support from outside the government enabled Shamir to form the most hardline Israeli government ever in June.

With Moleket, Shamir now has the support of 66 parliament members. Zeevi, who once headed the army command responsible for the West Bank, will have a seat on the powerful inner-cabinet responsible for vital security decisions.

He was security adviser from 1974-1977 to the then Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and has fought in four Arab-Israeli wars.

Zeevi says Arab countries should be happy to absorb the Palestinians.

"There must be a parting of ways for peace. We absorbed the Jews of Islam now they can take the Ishmaelites from Zion."

The U.S. has to address Palestine issue, but will Israel listen?

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

CAIRO — Arab and Western officials expect a new drive to break the Israeli-Arab peace deadlock as soon as the Gulf war is over, but many predict a strengthened Israel will block any progress.

Hostile Israeli reaction to a hint of new peace moves in last week's joint U.S.-Soviet statement on the Middle East was a foretaste of resistance to any concession to the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the officials said.

"The Americans will have to address the Palestinian issue with new vigour after the war, to shore up their Arab allies and allay charges of a double standard in dealing with the Middle East," a senior West European diplomat said.

Egyptian analysts say a diplomatic push is important for the stability of pro-Western Arab governments, facing a challenge from radical Muslim fundamentalists.

"There will be no stability in the region unless the Palestinian issue is resolved," said Cairo University political scientist Ali Hillaal Dessouki.

"The momentum created by the Gulf crisis must be used to settle the Palestinian problem," he told Reuter.

But Western diplomats say Israel, with powerful backing in the U.S. Congress, will expect a political reward for its restraint in not retaliating for Iraqi missile attacks.

They noted that Shamir had thwarted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's efforts to start Israeli-Palestinian peace talks even before the Gulf crisis, when the uprising in the occupied territories still had the Jewish state on the defensive.

"Now, after Palestinians cheered Scuds hitting Tel Aviv and Yasser Arafat allied himself with Saddam Hussein, I can't see the American public supporting a post-war squeeze on Israel," a Western diplomat said.

Israeli leaders have hardened their stance since the war began, apparently backing off from their own proposal for elections to choose Palestinian negotiators and speaking instead of talks with a delegation led by Jordan.

Egyptian officials say the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has barred itself by its outspoken backing for Iraq. Palestinians firing rockets towards Israel from Lebanon

in an apparent effort to open a second front have also done harm although the PLO has distanced itself from the action.

But the officials say the PLO must still be a partner in peace talks.

"In some respects the PLO may be weakened," said Deputy Information Minister Mamdouh Beltagi.

"But the Palestinian cause is strengthened because everybody must now answer the question of why the international community was so energetic in putting an end to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and has no energy to do the same towards the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel," he told Reuters.

Analysts forecast a radicalisation among Palestinians, born of despair, that could strengthen the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas and make negotiations even less likely.

Arab and Western diplomats said all past attempts to find alternative Palestinian leadership had failed. They also noted Israel now had the most right-wing government in its history.

Shamir moved it even further to the right on Sunday when he brought in an advocate of the "transfer" of Palestinians from the occupied territories, a euphemism for their expulsion.

The European Community (EC), spurred on by France, pressed in vain right up to the eve of the war for a U.S. commitment to a Middle East peace conference once Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was ended.

Diplomats say the war has probably further reduced the EC's limited clout in the Middle East.

The Soviet Union, another peace conference supporter, has also lost influence in the region due to its internal troubles and setbacks in its military and political support for Iraq, Syria, Libya and the PLO.

In a joint statement last Tuesday, Washington and Moscow said their efforts to promote Arab-Israeli peace would be "greatly facilitated and enhanced" once Iraq got out of Kuwait.

The declaration gave no hint of what shape those efforts might take and the White House hastened to dismiss any talk of linkage, which Iraq had sought.

LETTERS

Shame for the West

As a Palestinian who has suffered too much and for so long from Israeli occupation of our land, I feel sorry for the Israeli man who was killed by the Iraqi missile raids and for the other three Israelis who died by heart attacks. But at the same time I have not heard any word of sorrow from any Western official for the hundreds and maybe the thousands of Iraqi civilians who were killed by the U.S. led forces missiles and air raids. Nor for the Palestinian children who were killed by Israeli soldiers in the occupied land or in the air raids on refugee camps outside Palestine.

Germany, which always feels guilty for the Jews who suffered from the Nazis more than 50 years ago, quickly sent their foreign minister to Israel with money and arms. But Great Britain never felt guilty for its crimes toward the Palestinians. Britain entered their country in 1919, the Palestinian were safe and free in their homes and land at that time but the British left Palestine in 1948 leaving the Palestinians homeless and their country occupied by foreign Zionist settlers who never lived in Palestine for thousand of years.

Also the British should feel guilty about this war in the Gulf because they planned the borders and created the states for the interest of oil companies so that the income of oil goes only to few persons and small states with small populations, so that only minimum development will be made in the area and the oil income will go back to British banks and companies.

Instead of feeling guilty and ashamed the British sent their planes to destroy Iraq. I hope that the people of U.K. feel responsible and join the peace movements, like other countries, because they are more responsible than all.

Many thanks for the peace movements in the U.S.A.. But no thanks at all for President Bush, who refused to promise the Palestinians any good word to prevent this dirty war. He preferred to follow his Zionist advisors and led this war to destroy Iraq and Baghdad rather than liberate Kuwait. His name will be registered in history together with Genghis Khan, the Mongolian conqueror, and Holacko, the dictator who destroyed Baghdad 600 years ago.

I hope President Bush will be able to stop this war and act like General Char de Gaulle of France, who stopped the Algerian war, against the wishes of French colonialists and capitalists in Algeria.

I hope Mr. Bush will have the courage to save the blood and lives of all parties through the implementation of the United Nations resolutions of both conflicts (Palestine and Gulf). For justice should not have two scales, one for the poor and weak, and the other for the rich and strong.

This will be good even for Israel, because they can live in peace like others and not above others. They now know that not only stones can be thrown on them, but also missiles and other destructive weapons can reach them from a long distances. Peace cannot be implemented by force and hate, but by justice and love.

Zaki Hussein
Amman.

هكذا سنحل

Prince

(Continued from page 1)

The State Department's spokesman, I am surprised this time to hear the statement given the background which is very clearly known and explained, and believes and sympathize with those in authority in the U.S. administration.

The Prince expressed appreciation of trucks bringing in oil from Iraq.

"I salute the courage of those drivers. I would not relish driving a truck loaded with fuel under the kind of round-the-clock bombardment and the indiscriminate killing round and I think that this is only early days."

"I am extremely concerned about the security of anyone travelling on Baghdad-Amman road, not only truck drivers but also evacuees, refugees and so forth. As I said also we are expecting up to two million refugees, how many of them are going to be injured with this type of war. I say this type of war because it is unprecedented. We have made a very careful study which would be released in the very near future of the shape of those four trucks parked next to the road. I am still as a layman amazed that for alleged Scud missiles would be put conveniently next to the main road from Baghdad travelling westward during daytime."

"If we have been targeted the world has the right to know and our people have the right to know."

Asked about fuel rationing in Jordan Prince Hassan said:

"The problem for Jordan for many years is that it is an oil dependent country. Already the Iraqi imports represent less than two thirds of our requirements. We may have to cope with rationing in the future and I think that this pressure on Jordan is designed effectively to bring Jordan's economy to its knees and unless the pledges made to Jordan by the international community are honoured it is going to be a very difficult period in the end."

"Some of the economic decisions that were signed and almost delivered were delayed because of Jordan's political perception, and in that sense I would like to remind you that on Nov. 17 in Paris Jordan was considered as the principal victim of the crisis following Kuwait itself."

"On Israeli threats to Jordan, Prince Hassan said: 'My response is that the criticism of the Gulf crisis is that Iraq is a large neighbour, threatened and practically occupied a small neighbour. And I don't see why two wrongs make a right. It is not surprising to me that Israel, which is supposed to have the strength of the combined Arab forces plus the qualitative edge, should be able to threaten Jordan. If the intention is to draw Jordan into the battle or to reduce Jordan this is clearly a course of action that I don't see has anything to do with the Scud attacks on Israel and as we well know the allied bombardment of Iraq would not be improved by the Israeli participation.'

Badran

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told Congress that the aim of these foreign troops is to destroy Iraq's military power and offer a service to Israel, Amer-

ica's strategic and historic ally in the region," the prime minister said.

The prime minister noted that Jordan had already expressed its sound and correct view about the whole matter and it is by no means directed against Egypt or Saudi Arabia or any other party.

"In our view this problem should be settled within the Arab framework and we do not support any foreign forces intervention in Arab land," Mr. Badran said.

"This view is not a crime; nor is our conviction that the return of the foreign forces to take the oil brought about a curse not a bias to the Arabs," he said.

"Others seem to demand from us that we should not ask for our rights because the West believes it is the sole source for our survival and wants us to die or to live by its own will," he said.

The prime minister expressed total astonishment at Arab countries' response to the West in this regard.

"As the King had pointed out, our policy is clear — we are against the presence of foreign troops on Arab land," the prime minister added.

"It seems that in view of this Jordanian stand, we became the subject of an embargo and our trucks are being raided," the prime minister added. "We have been told that we violated the U.N. Security Council resolution, but we say we did not violate any resolution because we had no other alternative to bringing oil from Iraq until the Security Council has found us a substitute source," he stressed.

"Jordanians possess their own will and can solve their problems by themselves. We will continue to import oil from Baghdad despite the fact that seven of our drivers were killed and 11 injured and 31 trucks and oil tankers had been destroyed in these raids," the prime minister said.

The prime minister said that the recent measures restricting the use of fuel in Jordan aim at preserving the country's oil reserves. He said that priority in oil consumption would go to the Armed Forces and the Public Security and Civil Defence departments.

"Jordanians must find other means and ways for cooperation among members of the society and must introduce changes in their lifestyles and habits under the present emergency situation, and they must adapt to the new circumstances," he said.

The prime minister, called on each citizen to do his or her national duty, and said all the people will be trained in People's Army activities since the People's Army is a back-up force for the Jordanian Armed Forces which defends the nation.

At the outset of the meeting, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammed Addoun Al Zaben outlined his ministry's emergency programmes and plans being carried out in various regions.

The heads of the local councils held a lengthy debate about the various plans to deal with emergency situations.

Tankers

(Continued from page 1)

"The (State Department) statement is unclear," said the official. "In any event, we have adopted measures to ensure that no Jordanian national or vehicle would be involved or implicated in such changes," he said.

The authorities have instructed Jordanian drivers to make sure that their vehicles are easily dis-

tinguishable as civilian and not to travel in convoys, the official explained.

"We have also instructed them to travel only during daytime," he added. This precaution came in response to assertions by unidentified American military sources in Saudi Arabia that it was "impossible to distinguish between military and civilian vehicles, especially at night."

The latest State Department remarks, made by spokeswoman Margaret Tutweiler, appeared to be in response to the anger and indignation that several attacks on Jordanian oil tankers in the past week have drawn in Jordan.

"These vehicles are travelling through a war zone, and specifically, through an area that has been the source of Scud missile attacks against neighbouring states," Ms. Tutweiler said.

"While we seek to minimise... damage in our operations, this is made difficult by Iraq's policy of co-locating military and civilian targets," she contended. "It is difficult when material that is in trucks is co-mingled with civilian material."

In a terse statement issued earlier, Ms. Tutweiler implied that the tankers could be attacked since Washington saw them as violating the international embargo on Iraq since they were carrying Iraqi oil to Jordan.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other senior officials have rejected the contention, pointing out that Jordan had secured an oral consent from the U.N. Sanctions Committee for continued imports of oil from Iraq until suitable alternatives were found.

But, in her statement Monday, Ms. Tutweiler maintained that the committee had not granted Jordan such an exemption. At the same time, she said, the U.S. believes "Jordan has complied with U.N. sanctions, including oil." There was no immediate explanation to the apparent contradiction in statements.

Furthermore, Ms. Tutweiler also said that the allied aircraft mounting attacks on Iraq and Kuwait were not seeking to "enforce the embargo on Iraq."

"Through these (Iraqi) oil exports (to Jordan) do violate the sanctions, it is not coalition policy to attack civilian trucks exporting petroleum to Jordan," she maintained.

But eyewitness accounts from travellers on the main Baghdad-Amman highway indicate otherwise. Many have reported witnessing concerted attacks by low-flying aircraft not only on oil tankers but also other civilian vehicles.

In some instances, there were also definite indicators that some of the oil tankers were machine-gunned contrary to the American suggestion that they were caught in the bombing raids on suspect military vehicles.

Security officials and transport industry sources said trucks going into Iraq were also attacked last week, killing at least one Indian driver and wounding at least three others.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said as many as 31 oil tankers were attacked last week. He said seven people were killed and 11 others were injured in the raids.

Another justification aired by American officials is that there was no way of knowing whether the oil tankers were bound for Jordan or Iraqi military bases in western Iraq.

But Jordanian experts familiar with the geography of the area pointed out that some of the

attacks had taken place in an 80-kilometre stretch of road between the Iraqi border post of Trebbel and the town of Al Rutba, in an area where the road leads nowhere else but Jordan.

"There may or may not be Iraqi bases in the vicinity, but the fact remains no road exists in the area which could take heavy oil tankers," said one expert. "There are only desert tracks through which no tanker can manoeuvre. There can be little doubt that the Americans know this."

Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

Witnesses living on the outskirts of the capital reported two large explosions at 12:35 and 12:10 a.m. (2135 and 2440 GMT Monday).

One witness reported seeing a pink flash in the sky. "A second later I heard the explosion," he said.

Local residents said the second explosion was apparently a military site in the area. According to security and military regulations, the exact size could not be reported.

Explosions echoed across the capital well after midnight and blasts were heard in many sections of the city. Some people said at least four missiles fell during the night.

A resident of the western part of the city said the explosions shattered the windows of his house. "My house was deeply shaken," he said.

Travellers arriving from Tikrit, President Saddam Hussein's hometown 150 kilometres north of Baghdad, said it took intensive fire Monday night and early Tuesday, just as it has since the war began.

Those coming from the southern city of Basra said it was heavily shelled Monday. Columns of smoke and fire were seen in many parts of the city, which is Iraq's main port and a supply centre.

In his letter to the newspaper, Mr. Aziz said 37 civilian areas and towns were hit. Targets included television and radio stations in Baghdad and the provinces, a number of government buildings in the capital, an irrigation dam in western Iraq 270 kilometres west of Baghdad, communication centres, commercial areas, homes and trucks and cars on highways.

Allied commanders have claimed they are not aiming at civilian targets. An Iraqi military spokesman said Tuesday there had been 373 air raids on the country Monday and four allied aircraft were shot down.

The spokesman said residential areas and shops were bombed, Baghdad Radio reported.

Iraq's Defence Ministry daily, Al Qadisiya, said Tuesday that the Iraqi people and the armed forces are prepared to annihilate enemy bases and troops during the first hours of the ground battle "which Bush and his allies are mapping out."

"We are aware that the great coalition of the 'free world' troops during the first hours of the ground battle will be a great disaster for Bush and his allies," the newspaper said.

"The ground battle will result in rivers of enemy blood after the Iraqi armed forces cover the battlefield with fires that Bush and his allies cannot extinguish," it said.

Al Qadisiya reiterated that the aim of Iraq's struggle is to "liberate all Arab territories and regain wealth to the citizens of the Arab Nation." "History will talk about this battle for centuries to come," it said.

Iraq has in recent days repeatedly dared the allies to fight its estimated 500,000 men in and around Kuwait in a ground battle. The allies say they will do so only when they are ready.

Al Qadisiya said the battle Iraq sought would free the entire world from "the shackles of U.S. domination and hegemony."

The Iranian news agency reported from the southern city of Ahwaz that Iraqi border cities were hit so hard by air and missile attacks during the night that windows in the Iranian cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan vibrated.

The agency said Iraqi anti-aircraft defence units were silent during the attacks.

Tekran Radio said in a separate report that residents in Iranian border areas heard four explosions overnight

from the border Iraqi towns of Urbiyah and Badrah east of Baghdad.

"Iraq is now more determined to achieve its goals," Al Qadisiya said. "Iraq fully realises that the only chance for it to survive and rise is through the complete destruction of all the pillars and concentration of aggression."

A U.S. air force major said Tuesday the signal that the long-awaited ground offensive to retake Kuwait is about to start will be a massive blitz of Iraqi positions there.

Major Bob Baltzer said the blitz's aim would be to destroy half of Iraq's forces from the air in three to four days before tens of thousands of allied soldiers begin their ground assault.

Almost every plane in the U.S. inventory will be used in the blitz to be spearheaded by saturation bombing by giant eight-engined B-52s, he added.

"The goal is to smother (Iraq's) military power by half of what it is before the bombardment," he said.

In the holdout call yet for action in support of Iraq, Baghdad ordered activists abroad Tuesday to strike hard at the interests of countries siding against Iraq in the Gulf conflict.

A commentary on Baghdad Radio described President Bush as "the slaughter of the age," and told King Fahd of Saudi Arabia that he "will taste bitter death."

The broadcast then aired a series of cryptic messages, followed by the call from "central command."

"In struggles in all revolutionary cells," the radio announcer said. "Fight them with all your force, in all their dens, wherever they are."

"Do not spare any interest of any of the countries taking part in the aggression against your brethren in Iraq, against an Arab and Islamic nation."

The call was repeated at least twice in the early morning. "Let the traitors and cowards remain sleepless," it said.

Earlier, the radio aired three mysterious messages from "Maymoon" in central command to Kutayba, Mudar, Ayman and Munasser.

It was impossible to determine if the messages were indeed coded instructions for agents abroad. Kutayba's instructions were: "Implement what's on the table, and what's outside it," and Mudar was told: "Do not hesitate to do anything. God be with you."

"We are waiting to hear your voice about that of the others," Ayman's message was. Munasser was ordered to "report to the bank."

The radio commentary vowed to "take revenge for every drop of blood spilled by an Iraqi child, for every hair that fell off the head of a little girl and for every grieving mother crying over her child... (or) searching for her children beneath the rubble."

In other developments: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and British Prime Minister John Major agreed Tuesday that Iraq was "likely to use chemical weapons against the coalition fighting in the Gulf."

Government sources said the two spoke for 15 minutes by telephone to assess the state of the war. Both states have sent troops to the Gulf.

The two leaders agreed Iraq was likely to use chemical weapons and "might do so quite soon" as the allied assault continued.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal held Gulf war talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Tuesday, officials said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharran attended the meeting that started shortly after Prince Faisal arrived in Damascus, they said.

A bomb exploded in Pakistan and demonstrators rallied in South Korea and India Tuesday in sporadic protests against the Gulf war. Medical and military teams from South Korea and New Zealand travelled to the Gulf.

A bomb was hurled at the home of Saudi Arabia's consul-general in Pakistan, slightly injuring one guard and causing slight damage to an outside wall, police said.

They said they believed the bombing was linked to the Gulf war. Security around foreign embassies and consulates has been tightened since the outbreak of the war provoked daily demonstrations against

the United States and Saudi Arabia.

In New Delhi, some 1,500 demonstrators, most from India's two communist parties, marched to the U.S. embassy waving placards and shouting slogans demanding the withdrawal of multinational forces from the Gulf.

"Down with George Bush, U.S. imperialists quit the Gulf," they shouted.

In South Korea, about 100 students attended a peaceful campus rally at Seoul National University to oppose the dispatch of military personnel to the Gulf war.

Egyptian military experts have unloaded high explosive mines from a Qatari ship before letting the vessel enter the Suez Canal on its way to the Gulf, shipping sources said.

Egypt refused to allow the 15,125-tonne Qatari-registered Fatmulkhair to transit the canal with its 109-tonne cargo of mines.

The experts loaded the explosives and two tonnes of chemicals onto nine trucks which headed under heavy police escort to Suez from the Mediterranean port of Damietta, the sources said.

Morocco Monday denied reports of a clash between U.S. and Moroccan soldiers in the United Arab Emirates, which reportedly left four dead.

The Iraqi News Agency said that three American soldiers and one Moroccan were killed in the incident between the troops which allegedly left several more wounded.

The report was the second within a week alleging a clash between U.S. and Moroccan troops in the Gulf. A report last week said a deadly clash occurred in Saudi Arabia.

Morocco, which has 1,200 troops in Saudi Arabia and several hundred more in the United Arab Emirates, issued a denial without comment of both reports.

Cheney

(Continued from page 1)

concession. Then we can determine that necessities or details need to be done. What has to begin is a credible withdrawal from Kuwait without conditions," he said.

The Cheney-Powell trip will be the first top-level mission to the Gulf since the war began with bombing of Iraq on Jan. 17, and comes as Mr. Bush is weighing a timetable for commencing ground battle action.

Mr. Bush reiterated that there would be no allied concessions to prompt an end to hostilities.

He said President Saddam's ouster would probably shorten the conflict.

"It would be a lot easier to see a successful conclusion because I don't believe anybody other than Saddam Hussein is going to want to continue to submit to subject his army to the pounding they are taking, or his people," Mr. Bush said.

Earlier, government spokesman said with the border which has been under constant allied air attack.

"I think it's very rare now for people to leave Kuwait," said Mohammad, citing petrol shortages and the risk of air raids.

Only a trickle of cars crossed the lonely border post on Tuesday and 40 people were at a transit camp meant to hold 5,000 refugees. Only 100 people passed through the camp on Monday.

"The Palestinian people are the ones who have stayed because they have nowhere else to go," said Mohammad.

His wife said many Palestinians still in Kuwait were from the Gaza Strip and had no recognised travel documents.

"Even if I found gold in Kuwait I would not go back," said a car dealer who said he was returning to his farm in Yemen. "Kuwait for me is finished."

Several refugees reported seeing a burning Jordanian oil tanker early Tuesday near the Iraqi town of Al Rutbah, 120 kilometres from the border.

Refugees crossing into Jordan have earlier reported seeing cars and buses burned and damaged on the highway connecting Bag-

British troops grumble about curbs, warn of anti-Muslim 'backlash'

LONDON (AP) — British troops are grumbling about restrictions imposed in Saudi Arabia and warn of an anti-Muslim backlash in Britain when the soldiers return, the Times of London reported Tuesday.

"Anti-Saudi sentiment is deeply ingrained among most of the Western troops serving in Operation Desert Storm," reporter Christopher Walker wrote from eastern Saudi Arabia.

"Resentment among the British troops increased when, on the first Sunday after the air war began, the Saudi authorities banned a mass Christian church service for members of the Fourth Armoured Brigade," Walker wrote.

"In addition to feeling the lack of traditional facilities for rest and recreation, the British soldiers are unhappy that they are supposed to disguise their religious faith and about censorship of mail sent to them. Most of the British tabloid newspapers favoured by the troops are banned," the report said.

The Times reporter quoted Corporal Stephen Quairby accusing Saudis of hypocrisy on issues such as alcohol and sex.

"We know that they go over the causeway to drink in Bahrain. Everyone knows that they are hypocrites, so why don't they at least let us have a beer when we are fighting, and maybe dying, in defend their country?" Cpl. Quairby was quoted as saying.

Walker said British troops have been promised they will be allowed alcohol when they reach Kuwait City.

The report also quoted Lance Cpl. Gavin Dobson as saying that Muslims in Britain "are going to feel a backlash when the soldiers return."

"We are fighting for their country here, yet we have had to obey all of their rules during the months that we have been here and even now that the fighting has started," the lance corporal said.

"They make us obey their rules, but so far the Muslims in Britain have been able to behave according to their own customs. That is unfair and it has got to stop."

Walker said British officers appeared embarrassed by the corporals' comments during an organised tour of a supply base.

The Times said the report was subject to allied reporting restrictions.

Yvonne Polydoros said "the Cyprus problem has been objectively equated with the Kuwait issue, since we are speaking in terms of an invasion by foreign troops."

Mr. Vassiliou said he hoped "Cyprus will be dealt with in accordance with United Nations resolutions" when war ends in the Gulf.

The Eastern Mediterranean island has been divided since 1973, when Turkish troops invaded and occupied its northern third after a failed Athens-backed coup by Greek Cypriots seeking union with Greece.

Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared independence in 1983, but the breakaway state has only been recognised by Turkey.

A series of U.N. resolutions have called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cyprus.

Earlier, government spokesman said with the border which has been under constant allied air attack.

"I think it's very rare now for people to leave Kuwait," said Mohammad, citing petrol shortages and the risk of air raids.

Only a trickle of cars crossed the lonely border post on Tuesday and 40 people were at a transit camp meant to hold 5,000 refugees. Only 100 people passed through the camp on Monday.

"The Palestinian people are the ones who have stayed because they have nowhere else to go," said Mohammad.

His wife said many Palestinians still in Kuwait were from the Gaza Strip and had no recognised travel documents.

"Even if I found gold in Kuwait I would not go back," said a car dealer who said he was returning to his farm in Yemen. "Kuwait for me is finished."

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PACKING, DOOR-TO-DOOR

America's bad boys beaten in San Francisco tennis doubles

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies) — Andre Agassi and John McEnroe, playing doubles together for the first time, nearly beat the fourth-seeded team in the Volvo Tennis-San Francisco Tournament.

Agassi and McEnroe, America's bad boys who have been critical of each other in the past, held a match point at 5-4 in the third set against Neal Broad of South Africa and Kevin Carren of Austin, Texas.

But Carren's volleys and Broad's serving saved the ranked pair. They broke Agassi in the fourth game, then Carren served out the two-hour match 1-6, 7-6 (7-2), 7-5.

Agassi had not played a match in eight weeks, while McEnroe was sidelined for three months. "We were both motivated to play," McEnroe said. "I don't use doubles the way I used to. I did this to get my feet wet. If we played seriously we would be a great team. But I can't make a commitment to do that."

On paper, a McEnroe-Agassi win would have been a tremendous upset. Agassi's doubles rank is 525. McEnroe's has fallen to 343. Broad and Carren are doubles specialists, ranking 15th and 29th respectively.

Tournament director Barry McKay was happy enough with the result since Civic Auditorium was filled to its capacity of 6,519.

"Both John and Andre wanted more court time," McKay said. "This wasn't a rocky deal. It was killing a lot of birds with one stone."

In a late singles match, third-seeded Brad Gilbert of the United States got past German Patrick Kuhn 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

In earlier matches, fifth-seeded

Tim Mayotte, trying to make a comeback under the coaching of Billie Jean King, defeated Tomas Carbonell 6-4, 7-6 (8-6).

Mayotte used an overhauled serve and sharp volleys to close out the Spaniard, who ranks 77th. But it took him three match points in the second-set tiebreaker to win it 8-6.

A top 10 player in 1988 and 1987, Mayotte is ranked 37th. "I was pleased with the match," said Mayotte, who didn't win a tournament last year for the first time since 1984. "Billy Jean King and I have been making technical changes in my game for two and a half months. They are drastic changes for me. At (age) 30, it's pretty tough."

"She thinks I can break through to a higher level," he said. "I thought if she can help Martina (Navratilova) at 34, what the hell, why not do it?"

In other matches, Luis Herrera of Mexico upset no. 8 seed Gary Muller of South Africa 6-4, 7-6 (7-4). Herrera ranks 107th and Muller 54th.

Alexander Mronz of Germany beat U.S. Davis Cup doubles specialist and tournament qualifier Rick Leach, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3. Udo Riglewski, also of Germany, sidelined qualifier Marcus Ondruska of South Africa, 6-1, 6-3.

Top-seeded Andre Agassi is scheduled to play Jeff Tarango followed by Andrew Sznajder against fourth-seeded John McEnroe, a late entry.

Agassi, defending tournament champion, will be making his first competitive appearance since his controversial default in singles against Australia last December at the Davis Cup in Florida. McEnroe dropped out of an

Italian tournament to play here because of a fear of flying internationally at this time, tournament director Barry McKay said.

McEnroe will play his tennis close to home in the coming weeks rather than travel to Europe to compete, tournament organizers said Monday.

McEnroe has taken a wild card spot in next week's U.S. Pro Indoor Tournament in Philadelphia rather than play in Brussels.

"He asked (ATP) tour officials if he did not have to go to Europe and they rearranged things so that he still honored his commitment to play tennis in the scheduled week," said U.S. Pro Indoor spokesman Sue Ellen Foley.

The ATP will try to add another star player to the Brussels field to replace McEnroe next week, according to tour official Weller Evans.

"We will continue to try to bolster the field in Brussels," Evans said from tour headquarters in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

"Boris (Becker) has had a passing interest in Brussels and he certainly hope he would play, which would certainly soften the blow of a loss of a player like McEnroe."

Other players have decided to change their travel plans because of the war.

Eric Jelen of Germany and Frenchman Yannick Noah chose to stay in Europe instead of coming to the United States. Jelen was excused from Philadelphia and Noah from San Francisco.

Most players, however, are competing as scheduled.

Agassi and Michael Chang are keeping their European commitments, Evans said. Agassi is set to play Brussels, while Chang is

already in Milan and will also play in Brussels.

Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl, who resides in Connecticut, is playing in Milan this week and in Philadelphia the week after.

"It doesn't seem to bother him," said Evans of the Trans-Atlantic Trips.

McEnroe's decision to skip several European tennis tournaments turned a British sports columnist into a tongue-in-cheek travel agent Tuesday.

Ian Woodbridge, a sports writer for the Daily Mail, drew up a 11,000-mile (23,500-kilometer) route that would get McEnroe from New York to Wimbledon for the July Grand Slam event without once stepping near an airport.

Woodbridge's itinerary, compiled with the help of a local travel company, included train travel from New York to Edmonton, Alberta; two buses from Edmonton to White Horse, Alaska; a rental-car drive from White Horse to Anchorage; a sled-dog team from Anchorage to Nome; a boat ride across the Bering Strait from Nome to Siberia; hitchhiking from Siberia to Vladivostok; trains from Vladivostok to Calais, France; a walk through the unfinished channel tunnel to Dover, England; a train from Dover to London's Victoria Station; and a subway ride with one transfer — from Victoria to Wimbledon.

"It is perhaps only fair to warn him, however," Woodbridge wrote, "that, by their calculations, (the travel agents') experts believe this route over about 14,000 miles should get him to Wimbledon only a day or two after the men's singles final is over."

Organisers deny Commonwealth Games in danger

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — Organisers of the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia, has strongly denied a report that the games were in danger of collapse because of scheduling conflicts with the European Athletics Championships.

Chief executive Ron Longstaffe said the Victoria Commonwealth Games Committee "was working on a compromise with organisers of the Helsinki event, also scheduled for August, to allow runners to compete in both championships with ample rest time."

"We would put the distance events at the back end of our schedule and we are asking them

to put the distance races at the front end of their schedule, to give the athletes as much recovery time as possible," Longstaffe told Reuters.

The Victoria Games, scheduled to take place between Aug. 18 and 28, 1994, follow the Helsinki competition by 10 days.

A British press report suggested the Commonwealth Games were in danger of dying unless organisers were willing to change dates to allow Britain to send a full-strength team.

The London Times story predicted that after the Helsinki Games leading athletes from Britain and Kenya would choose to remain on the lucrative European circuit rather than seek Common-

wealth medals.

But Longstaffe said the scheduling squeeze affected only about 15 British middle- and long-distance runners out of a total of 2,500 Commonwealth athletes from 50 countries.

He blamed the managers of the professional athletes involved for creating the controversy.

"It's just a lower-class event, what are they making such a fuss about," he said.

Longstaffe insisted that the Commonwealth Games still carried enormous prestige.

"A Commonwealth Games medal is still prized and valued among Commonwealth athletes," he said.

Longstaffe added that the games, organized around a games village on the University of Victoria campus, could not be rescheduled for a later date.

"If you put it back into September, the university says it interferes with our academic year," he said.

Re-scheduling them ahead of the European Championships also would not work, he said, and would prejudice probable television coverage from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

"We are in a squeeze, our dates were set well ahead of the European Track and Field Championships," he said.

Gascoigne fit to face Cameroon at Wembley

LONDON (R) — Paul Gascoigne, England's inspirational young midfielder who rose to prominence during the World Cup, is fit to play against Cameroon in Wednesday's re-match of their Italia 90 quarter-final clash.

Gascoigne missed Tottenham's first division draw with Leeds Saturday, suffering from a high temperature and groin strain, for which he had been receiving pain-killing injections.

He was left out of England's European Championship qualifying match against Ireland in November, but his return to fitness is a relief for manager Graham Taylor who is without midfielders David Platt, Steve McMahon and Neil Webb.

Their absence could mean a

place for former captain Bryan Robson, who has not played an international since hobbling out of the early stages of the World Cup last June.

The Manchester United skipper, capped 87 times, has fought his way back into the international squad after a double achilles tendon operation.

Cameroon, beaten 3-2 by England in the World Cup quarter-final, have doubts about their captain Stephen Tatawa who has an ankle injury which he had strapped during Monday's training session.

If Tatawa is able to play, only dreadlocked striker Cyrille Makanaky will be missing from the Cameroon World Cup side.

Veteran Roger Milla, whose

four goals helped Cameroon become the first African nation to reach the World Cup quarter-finals, has come out of retirement to link up again with Francois Omas Biyik.

Milla, whose hip-shaking wiggle at the corner post earned him a World Cup goal, readily accepted the invitation to play at Wembley.

"It's a pleasure to play at Wembley, one of the world's most famous stadiums," he said Monday.

Biyik, scorer of the goal which beat Argentina in the opening game in Italy, plays for French first division side Rennes and is currently the third highest scorer in the league with 11.

Cameroon are expected to play Joseph-Antoine Bell in goal and the Bordeaux keeper could find himself facing Chris Waddle, the Marseille winger who scored against him last Friday.

Robson was named captain when Taylor announced the England side Tuesday. It showed six changes to the side which drew with Ireland.

Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman takes over from Chris Woods of Glasgow Rangers for his fourth cap and midfielder Trevor Steven and Gascoigne are

recalled.

Crystal Palace striker Ian Wright, whose goals have helped take his club to third place in the league and to last season's F.A. Cup final, will make his international debut.

Cameroon's leading soccer official said Tuesday he wanted to invite England to play an international in Africa in December — if he could find a senior English F.A. representative to receive the invitation.

Simon Njikam, the new president of the Cameroon Football Federation, claimed no leading F.A. official had come to meet him in the two days his side had been in London preparing for Wednesday's friendly against England at Wembley.

"We have been invited here to play and I cannot understand why they would leave their guests without any attention. Perhaps they could not come because of the cold weather," said Njikam.

"I hope someone can come and meet me as I want to pass on a formal invite."

David Barber, the F.A.'s liaison officer, said he had been with the Cameroon squad since their arrival and denied claims he had failed to make himself known to the management.



Roger Milla

Milla back to grace Wembley

LONDON (R) — Roger Milla, the veteran Cameroon substitute striker whose four goals helped his side reach the World Cup quarter-finals last year, is preparing to pull on the green, red and yellow strip once more.

Milla, who at 38 was the second oldest player in the World Cup finals in Italy, is making another comeback from retirement to play in Cameroon's prestigious soccer friendly against England at Wembley Wednesday.

His efforts to find a European club willing to "pay his asking" price this season have failed and he has turned to business and managing a Cameroon club.

But the man whose hip-shaking wiggle at the corner post after each of his four World Cup goals — all scored after coming on as a substitute — turned him into an instant celebrity, readily accepted the invitation to play at Wembley.

"I'm not playing regular football any more, but I'm happy to play for Cameroon if they need me," he said Monday.

"It's a pleasure to play at Wembley, one of the world's most famous stadiums. We are very happy to be the first African team to play there."

Milla retired from top club level almost two years ago after playing for five French clubs — Montpellier, Monaco, St Etienne, Bastia and Valenciennes — but returned on orders of the president for the World Cup.

Only last month he said he had given up soccer for good.

But one of the conditions believed to have been laid down by the English Football Association for Cameroon to grace the Wembley stage was that they would field their World Cup side, including the crowd-pulling Milla.

He is expected to play only for 30 minutes.

Milla returned to Cameroon as a superstar after the World Cup, having the honorary title of prince bestowed upon him and being voted African Footballer of the Year for a second time.

He has become a roving ambassador for his country and Monday, just hours after training, left for Spain on a 24-hour business trip — one of the 43 countries he has visited since his World Cup heroics.

"England are a good country but we feel all right about the match. We have come to play good football like we did in Italy," Milla said.

Leonard to join greats at Madison Square Garden

NEW YORK (AP) — The site, as much as the fight, is behind Sugar Ray Leonard's first New York appearance since he was an amateur.

"When my career is over I will be able to tell my kids I fought at Madison Square Garden," said Leonard, who boxed in a U.S.-Britain dual meet at the Felt Forum in the present garden complex in 1973.

The 34-year-old Leonard, a boxing superstar since he came home from the 1976 Olympics with a gold medal, will debut in the main arena Saturday night in a bid to win the World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight title from Terry Norris.

"It has real meaning," Norris said of his chance to fight in the

garden. "It's where all the great champions made their names."

Since the 23-year-old Norris turned pro in 1986, however, there have only been three championship matches in the garden. There were two within four days in January 1941.

The present Madison Square Garden is the last of four New York buildings to bear that name, although the current one is neither square nor on Madison Avenue.

For much of this century, the garden was the center of the boxing universe. There were 205 boxing shows in the garden in the 1930s, 280 in the 1940s, 275 in the 1950s and 175 in the 1960s. In the 1970s and 1980s, there were less than 100 shows.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAR HIRSCH
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CHOOSING A TRUMP SUIT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 8 6 2
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ K Q J 3
♣ K Q J 3

EAST
♠ 6 4
♥ K 10 9 4
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ A 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 9 5
♥ A J 7 3
♦ Void
♣ 10 7 5

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣. All the books will tell you that a combined 4-4 major-suit bidding provides the best fit for game. It is flexible and ruffs can be taken in either hand without losing control. But when the 4-4 fit is weak, a solid six-carder can make a better trump suit, as this hand from a team match demonstrates.

Played in four hearts with a diamond lead, declarer was forced to

ruff immediately. Double dummy, the contract could have succeeded by not touching trumps, but once declarer went after trumps 10 tricks proved elusive.

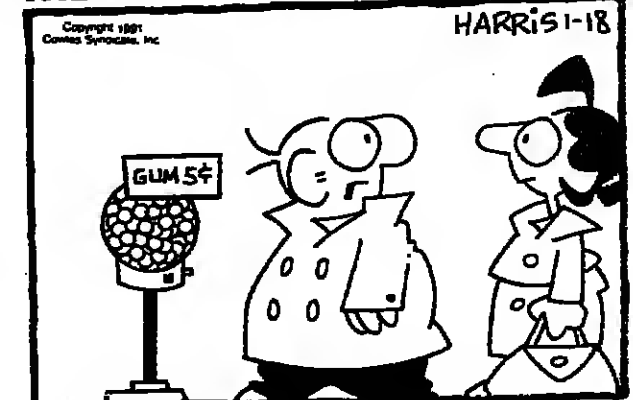
In the other room the bidding went as shown. Here, too, the 4-4 heart fit was located, but South rejected it in favor of the strong spade suit.

Once again the opening lead was a diamond and declarer ruffed, but this time the trump suit was not weakened fatally. Declarer drew trumps in four rounds, leaving just one trump in the closed hand. West was forced to hold up when declarer led the ten of clubs, and hold up again when another club was continued to prevent declarer from scoring three tricks in that suit.

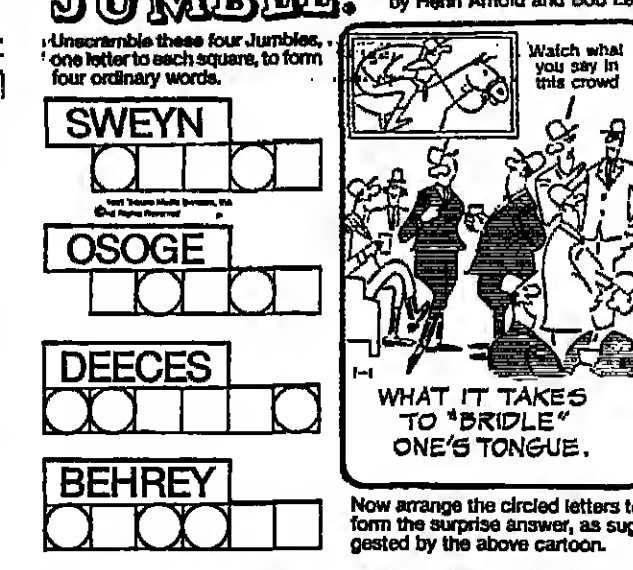
Declarer realized that a third round of clubs would be futile. A defender would win and force out South's last trump with a diamond, and the defenders would have sufficient tricks to defeat the contract. Instead, declarer tried the heart finesse, and though this just and hearts didn't break, declarer amassed six trump tricks, two hearts and two clubs, just enough for game.

Horoscope not received

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



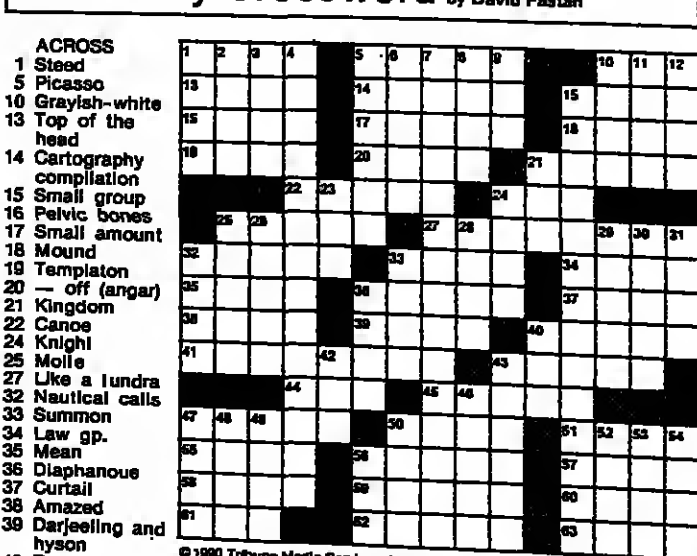
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



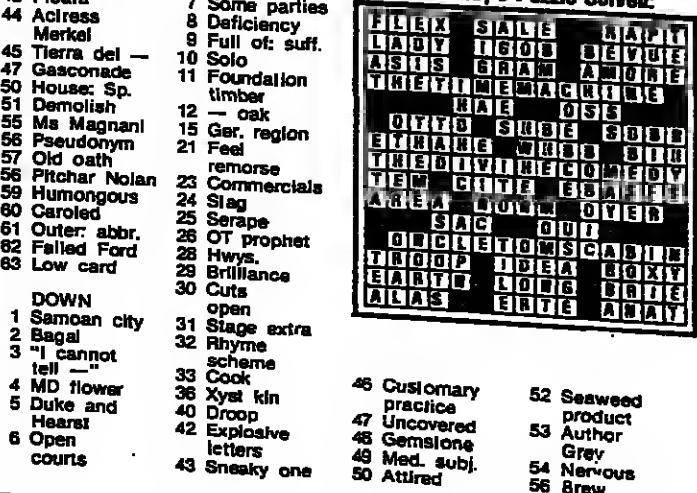
Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRUTH PRIZE EMBARK GULLET
Answer: He seemed to be sawing wood in his slumber because this was in it—"LUMBER!"

THE Daily Crossword by David Pastan



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Economists expect hard times for Saudi Arabia from rising war costs and lower oil prices

DHAHRAN (R) — Mushrooming war costs and falling oil revenues will badly hit Saudi Arabia's 1991 budget, which has already been delayed because of difficulties in predicting cash flow, economists in the kingdom said Monday.

Nobody knows how much the world's biggest oil exporter will end up spending on the war with Iraq, Riyadh postponed announcing its 1991 budget last December mainly for that reason.

But economists estimate Saudi Arabia spent or pledged more than \$30 billion to cover Gulf crisis costs even before the war broke out on Jan. 17.

This easily dwarfed extra income generated by higher oil prices and production during the last five months of 1990.

"It's a very grim scene," one economist said. "They accumulated some revenues from added crude production but it didn't measure against additional commitments."

"Costs now are much greater than projected. To find that money now while oil prices are dropping will be difficult... its going to hit them really bad," he said.

Emergency spending devoured 15 to 20 per cent of the kingdom's gross domestic product in 1990 and more than doubled its projected budget deficit of \$6.7 billion, the economists said.

Saudi Arabia is covering fuel, food and housing costs for nearly three quarters of a million foreign soldiers on its soil.

This commitment added to its own defence costs and arms deals with the United States totalled \$18.2 billion in 1990, one economist said. Part of the arms deal, worth around \$7 billion, was delayed at Washington's request.

Riyadh also gave \$6 billion to countries like Egypt, Turkey and

Syria whose economies have been hurt by crisis. It spent \$1 billion on boosting its civil defence and gave another \$560 million to Kuwaiti refugees in Saudi Arabia.

Economists said Saudi Arabia — which depends on oil for more than 60 per cent of its income — also spent huge sums on boosting its own output to compensate for the loss of Kuwait and Iraqi crude.

This helped push international oil prices down to around \$25 per barrel from a high of \$40. They had dropped at least \$10 since the war began because of oversupply and belief that the kingdom's oilfields — which contain a quarter of the world's crude reserves — were not threatened.

The economists said a new \$13.5 billion pledge by Saudi Arabia, announced by Washington last week, was intended only for support to the U.S. military during the first quarter of 1991.

If oil prices fall further Riyadh might have difficulty in coming up with the cash immediately, they said.

"People are looking at Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as the greatest recipient of the foreign forces as well as being big producers of oil so they should just gulp and pay up," one economist said. "But it's a major amount of money for three months and doesn't include contributions to other forces or for reconstruction of Kuwait when the war ends," he said.

Another wild card was the cost of cleaning up a giant oil slick which threatens Saudi Arabia's coastal industries, including desalination and power plants.

The Saudi government also spent millions of dollars to shield the domestic economy from the Gulf war, the economists said.

It has recently cut back price rises for the state-owned Saudi

Arabian airlines and increased farm subsidies.

Whatever happened, oil income alone would not help Saudi Arabia cover all its war costs, the economists said.

It would most likely either borrow more money through a domestic bond market, or have government-owned industries remit more profits.

Other less likely options were drawing down its reserves, dipping into its IMF quota or borrowing money on the international market.

Political considerations made the last options unlikely although bankers would find Saudi Arabia — which has no foreign debt — a promising risk, they said.

"They will have a short-term payments problem but in the long run, they control most of a vital commodity and are a good long-term lending prospect," one economist said.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has started to shut out some refined oil products out of the Gulf in a bid to maintain export levels and gain some extra storage capacity, oil traders in the Gulf said Monday.

SAMAREC, the kingdom's oil refining and sales arm, issued a tender Monday to sell naphtha and fuel oil off Fujairah, in the Gulf of Oman, from floating storage by ship-to-ship transfer.

"High insurance rates kept some tankers out of the Gulf, so to keep refineries going they must have decided to put some products on water (for storage)," a Gulf-based oil trader said.

Another said a Japanese seamen union decision to stay out of Saudi Gulf ports, although it has now been reversed since last week, decreased the kingdom's naphtha exports to some extent in January, and created storage problems at refineries.

Otherwise, shipping and oil industry sources said the Saudi decision to shuttle products out of the Gulf does not seem to be linked to any threat to navigation in the waterway and most probably had been prompted by commercial reasons.

The world's biggest crude oil exporter started to shuttle crude oil out of the Gulf last week to help it keep market share, and despite a diminishing threat to shipping in the waterway, the oil industry sources said.

Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company, has chartered three ultra-large crude carriers (ULCCs) to use as floating storage including the world's biggest tanker, the 516,895 tonne Kapitlan Mikaelis.

Saudi Aramco has so far offered crude only to developing countries including India, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

EC ministers unblock funds for Syria

BRUSSELS (R) — European community (EC) foreign ministers have unblocked \$204 million in grants and loans to Syria.

The decision, ending a four-year freeze on financial cooperation, was endorsed without debate at a ministerial meeting Monday.

Relations between the 12-nation bloc and Syria were broken off in December 1986 over allegations that Syria was involved in terrorist attacks.

EC sources said the decision to release the money was a reward for Syria's participation in the anti-Iraqi coalition in the Gulf.

U.S. aid said to reward Gulf allies, E. Europe

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush's 1992 foreign aid budget seeks to reward Gulf war allies and to boost assistance to emerging democracies in eastern Europe, State Department officials said Monday.

The budget seeks \$14.47 billion in new foreign aid funding from Congress, compared to \$13.56 billion approved in 1991.

Despite major cuts in some areas of overall U.S. spending, the status quo would be maintained for Israel and Egypt, two key American allies in the Middle East and in the war effort and the largest recipients of U.S. foreign aid.

They would receive \$3 billion and \$2.3 billion respectively.

The U.S. has been grateful for Israel's decision so far not to retaliate against Iraqi Scud missile attacks on Tel Aviv and other areas, fearing Israeli involvement in the war could weaken the Arab and Western coalition amassed against Baghdad.

In this environment, Israel recently requested \$13 billion in additional aid to offset expenses caused by the war and by the massive influx of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union.

Bush has told Jewish leaders his budget-strapped government would have trouble responding to this request. But officials are asking Europe and Japan to try and help.

Robert Bauerlein, an aide to Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who briefed reporters on the foreign aid budget, said that Turkey would likely receive an increase. Aid requests for Turkey have run around \$600 million in recent years.

A budget document released by the State Department asserts that "establishing a secure and stable Middle East is among the most critical challenges that we now face."

"Accordingly, nearly three-fourths of security assistance resources (in the 1992 budget) are devoted to the countries in the

Curfew on Palestinians squeezes Israeli economy

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel is damaging its own economy by imposing a stiff curfew on Palestinians in the occupied territories who normally pick the country's fruit and build its houses.

The curfew has confined the 1.75 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to their homes since the Gulf war began. It is meant to prevent unrest and attacks on Jews by Palestinians who staunchly support Iraq and have cheered as Iraqi missiles landed on Israeli cities.

As the economy slowly recovers from losses related to the missile attacks, construction and agricultural sectors are lagging far behind because of their dependence on cheap Arab labour from the territories.

Under normal circumstances about 100,000 Palestinians work in Israel, most in menial jobs.

Rafi Melnik, a senior economist in the research department of Israel's central bank, said the total loss in production for January was \$500 million, or one per cent of gross domestic product.

"The damage to the construction sector has very severe implications because there is already a critical shortages," Melnik told Reuters.

While 85 per cent of Israeli workers were back at work last week, only 40 per cent of construction workers returned, nearly all of them Jews.

Most construction workers are

Palestinians who have been allowed to leave their homes only for short periods to buy food.

"Every day the construction industry operates at its current pace, it is a loss of 15 million shekels (\$7.5 million)," Melnik said.

The absence of Palestinian labourers has slowed harvests of citrus fruit and flowers, two key agricultural exports.

The independent Israeli daily Haaretz criticised the curfew Monday, noting some 800,000 tonnes of ripe citrus threatened to rot on trees. If it is not harvested, \$10 million a week could be lost, it said.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said construction had almost stopped at a time when he had to devote resources, already severely stretched by an influx of immigrants, to repairing and rebuilding some 3,000 apartments damaged by Iraqi missiles.

Melnik estimated the damage to homes from missile attacks at about \$100 million.

Sharon said 125,000 new apartments must be built this year to keep pace with immigration. About 200,000 Jews immigrated to Israel last year, most of them from the Soviet Union, and officials predict twice that number will come in 1991.

Newspaper reports Monday said Sharon and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan were pressing the army to ease curfew restrictions and allow workers back

into Israel.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens, who is in charge of the occupied territories, met West Bank mayors Monday to discuss ways to ease the curfew.

"We are examining the possibility of bringing workers to Israel under supervision. It depends a lot on what happens in the field. If there are no disturbances, if the area is calm, I think this will be granted," he told Israel television.

The war has also strained the country's defence budget with forces on high alert for Iraqi attacks. The government added \$122 million to the defence budget Sunday.

Israel's economy has stagnated for three years due to the Palestinian revolt. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August sent tourism to Israel plummeting and increased oil prices.

Melnik said some of the costs of the war may be offset by Israeli political gains in the Gulf war which could make it easier for the government to obtain foreign loans for the settlement of Soviet immigrants. Israel says it needs \$20 billion in foreign funds over five years.

But in Washington, President George Bush has told American Jewish leaders the United States would have difficulty meeting Israel's request for additional aid to compensate for losses in the Gulf war and to help absorb Soviet Jewish immigrants.

General Motors to cut 15,000 jobs

NEW YORK (R) — General Motors Corp., the largest American carmaker, said Monday that it would cut 15,000 jobs over the next two years and slash the dividend it pays to shareholders nearly in half.

General Motors (G.M.), which is struggling to overcome a deep slump in sales, said it was cutting 15 per cent of its North American white-collar work force by 1993, affecting 15,000 employees.

G.M. cut the quarterly dividend on its common shares to 40 cents a share from 75 cents. G.M., whose board met earlier Monday in New York, said it would cut capital spending by \$500 million a year to \$7 billion annually through 1994.

In a statement explaining the measures, G.M. Chairman Robert Stempel said the board "felt it was imperative at this time to recognise the economic impact that the turmoil in the Middle East and the recession have had on consumer confidence, and on the highly competitive automotive markets — particularly in North America."

Car sales have dropped because of falling U.S. consumer confidence and sharp swings recently in the price of oil, reflecting the conflict in the Gulf region.

Sales of U.S.-made cars fell 3.1 per cent last year to 6.88 million. G.M. suffered an even bigger drop than the industry as a whole.

Stempel said G.M.'s profits for the fourth quarter and all of 1990, which are due to be released this month, had declined "significantly" from year-earlier levels.

G.M. also plans to cut costs by trimming back a programme to award stock bonuses to executives.

G.M. made the announcement after the close of trading in New York, but its stock fell 87.5 cents to \$35.25 in after-hours exchanges.

"There were a lot of people that were shocked by this," said Shearson Lehman Brothers analyst Joseph Phillippi. "They're going to want to know if there are more serious problems at the company."

But he said he believed the move was positive and showed G.M. was facing up to its problems, including a bloated bureaucracy.

"It basically reflects an understanding of the reality of the near-term situation, and a recognition of what it needs to do in the long term," he said.

Dollar weakens against yen, mark

LONDON (R) — The dollar was down slightly against the mark and the yen by midsession in Europe Tuesday following concerted Western central bank intervention on Monday to try halt its fall against the German currency.

The dollar was quoted around 1.4640 marks and 130.35 yen at 1330 GMT. It had closed in London Monday at 1.4660 marks, an all-time finishing low against the German currency, and at 131.00 yen.

In Frankfurt the U.S. currency was fixed at 1.4624 marks, an all-time low for the daily money market setting in the German financial centre. It was fixed there Monday at 1.4639.

Some traders said the dollar could resume its slide against the mark if the release of U.S. factory order data for December in Washington confirmed market perceptions of a weakening U.S. economy.

One Frankfurt trader said some European operators might try to sell the dollar below 1.46 marks to find out whether European and North American central banks would act again to prop up the currency. That was the level at which the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, intervened for a second time Monday.

The dollar had touched a record traded low of 1.4570 marks in Europe Monday afternoon.

Some dealers in London said the market would also try to see how far the dollar could fall against the yen. They noted the dollar was some way off its all-time traded low against the yen of 120.45 set on Jan. 4, 1988.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasuhiro Mieno said the central bank was ready to cooperate as needed with other industrial nations to counter any collapse of the dollar against the yen.

Bonn takes steps to ease investment

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl, facing rising public discontent in what used to be East Germany over the region's sluggish growth rate, announced plans Monday to end legal barriers to investment and boost public works jobs.

Dieter Vogel, Kohl's spokesman, said the federal cabinet would present legislation this week aimed at smoothing investment, including easing of restrictions on acquiring formerly state-owned companies and property.

Justice Minister Klaus Kinkel will present legislation to the cabinet this Wednesday to better remove barriers to investment and accelerate steps towards privatisation," Vogel told a news conference.

He said the government hoped to have the legislation through parliament by late March.

The announcement was made after Kohl and several ministers held a fifth round of talks with German industrial and trade union leaders on ways to boost the east's recovery from four decades of communist economic mismanagement.

Kohl agreed to promote public works jobs to combat unemployment, but his spokesman did not elaborate.

Eastern German unemployment was running at 7.3 per cent in December, with some 642,000 people out of work, compared with 6.8 per cent in the west. But in the east, another 1.8 million people were on short-time work, a government-funded halfway house between work and unemployment.

employment, unknown in the west.

Vogel said a key aim of the coming legislation was to relax restrictions on buying or renting state property seized under the communists who were ousted in a 1989 peaceful revolution.

Western German industry and trade associations have complained that a backlog of unsettled property claims has put the brakes on investment in the east.

As part of a unity treaty governing the merger of East and West Germany last October, easterners whose property or businesses had been confiscated by East Germany were given the right to file for return of ownership.

Opinion polls released just before Kohl's talks showed a growing number of eastern Germans disappointed in economic growth so far and pessimistic about the chances of catching up to wealthy western Germany.

According to the news magazine Der Spiegel, the number of "ossies" (easterners) who said they were hopeful about the eastern economy dropped from 77 per cent in September to 58 per cent in January.

Eighty-six per cent said they wished lower eastern wages would rise to match western levels within three years, but only 39 per cent said they expected that to happen.

A poll by the private research group on elections found that while 94 per cent of western Germans thought their job was secure, 60 per cent in the east believed theirs was endangered.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Optimism fuelled by bullish performances on other bourses swept shares to their highest close in two months. The All Ordinaries Index rose 35.1 points to 1354.4.

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher in heavy trading. Investors turned bullish on Wall Street's Monday gains, a stronger yen, and higher bond prices, while shrugging off concerns about the Gulf war and bearish economic fundamentals. The Nikkei Index closed up 534.21 points or 2.29 per cent to 23,821.57.

HONG KONG — Sharp gains in New York and speculative buying of Blue Chips sent the Hang Seng Index soaring 94.98 points, or 2.9 per cent, to close at 3,345.41.

SINGAPORE — Rallying in New York and Tokyo sparked a buying spree. The Straits Times Index gained 13.34 points to 1,286.99. Volume hit a 1991 high.

BOMBAY — Institutional buying pushed the Bombay stock exchange index up 18.25 points to 1,070.29. Volume was light.

FRANKFURT — Shares finished mixed after opening sharply higher as a lack of follow-up orders and profit-taking wiped out most of the early gains. The Dax gained 3.82 points to 1,438.85.

ZURICH — Prices rose on back of gains in New York and Tokyo. The SPI rose 7.7 points or 0.82 per cent to 947.4 and the Blue Chips Index was up 9.6 points or 0.66 per cent to 1,472.5.

PARIS — The market roared higher, climbing 1.56 per cent as investors snapped up stocks that have long underperformed the market.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, February 4, 1991			Swiss franc		531.4	534.6
Central Bank official rates			French franc		133.2	134.0
			Japanese yen (for 100)		509.9	513.0
			Dutch guilder		402.4	404.8
			Swedish crown		121.1	121.8
			Italian lira (for 100)		60.3	60.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)		219.9	221.2
	Buy	Sell				
U.S. dollar	664.0	668.0				
Pound Sterling	1316.0	1323.9				
Deutsche mark	453.6	456.3				

TODAY AT

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
LAMBADA
Performances: 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571
TOTAL RECALL
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:30 a.m.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155
Nabila Obeld / Salah Sadani
in
The Path of Fear
Arabic
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
MANIAC COP
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
IN THE LINE OF DUTY "4"
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

Investments in Philippines drop sharply

MANILA (AP) — Foreign investments in the Philippines dropped more than 71 per cent in the third quarter of last year, the central bank has said.

The bank said new foreign investments during the period amounted to \$79 million, down from \$282 million in the same quarter last year.

The report also said capital withdrawals surged 261.1 per cent to \$206 million in the first nine months of the year, up from \$57 million a year earlier.

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Gorbachev issues tough new move against organised crime

MOSCOW (Agencies) — In an intensification of the Kremlin's law-and-order drive, President Mikhail Gorbachev has issued tough new measures against organised crime.

In a related development, authorities brought criminal charges against Artiom Tarasov, one of the country's most successful entrepreneurs. Reformers have alleged the criminal investigations of Tarasov is an attempt to discredit the economic reforms that have allowed the expansion of free enterprise.

Tarasov said Tuesday that he had been denied television access to make a public apology to Gorbachev over remarks he made in a newspaper interview in which he accused the Soviet leader of leading a retreat from democracy.

The new measures follow other indications of a hardening Kremlin stance, including the bloody crackdown on the Baltic republics, a presidential decree giving law enforcement agencies sweeping search-and-seizure powers, and the creation of joint police and army patrols.

The Interior Ministry announced Tuesday that the number of joint patrols will be increased from 1,740 to 2,636 nationwide. Often, the patrols

have 4 or 5 members. A spokesman said the patrols have detained 5,000 people since they were begun on Feb. 1.

Ministry spokesman Vladimir Yanchenkov said most of the arrests were for petty crimes such as theft and "cases of street hooliganism."

In Monday's decree, Gorbachev ordered the creation of a new "main directorate" within the Interior Ministry to fight organised crime, corruption and drug dealing.

The directorate, together with the KGB, should "concentrate on uncovering, halting and investigating the activities of criminal groups that commit the most dangerous crimes and have international connections," the decree said.

The decree also gave the national government and the 15 republics two months to form "inter-regional and regional interior ministry troops to fight organised crime."

The troops will be under the new directorate, according to the decree, announced Tuesday on "Vremya," the nationwide evening television news programme.

The Soviet press has reported in recent months about crime mobs' activities, including protection

rings, illegal currency trading and prostitution. According to the business newspaper Kommersant, many of the mobs are based in Soviet Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Chechen region in southern Russia.

"Vremya" also reported that the Interior Ministry "has brought a criminal case" against employees of the foreign trade company Istok, or Source, and its chief, Tarasov, a reputed millionaire.

Tarasov is a member of the Russian Republic's legislature and has been an adviser to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

"Vremya" said Tarasov and his employees had been charged with "extortion of huge sums of money, and of finance and hard currency machinations." The news programme showed consumer electronics, icons and weapons allegedly seized at the company's warehouse.

Details of the charges were not immediately released by the authorities.

"Artiom Tarasov is a purely criminal (character) mixed up in politics," A.M. Biryukov, a senior Interior Ministry investigator, told "Vremya."

Istok, founded in 1987, has

Pretoria shuns world mediation in reforms

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa, still smarting from decades of overseas pressure, thanked the West Tuesday for planning to lift sanctions, but rejected any role for the outside world in helping to end apartheid.

"I will not allow outside entities to come to our country to tell us how to solve our problems," Foreign Minister P.W. Botha told reporters.

"I really see no constructive role for the United Nations in South Africa because we believe South Africans must resolve their problems themselves," Botha said.

"We know what our own problems are."

Botha thanked the European Community (EC) and United States for their willingness to review sanctions in response to reform announcements Friday by President F.W. de Klerk.

The EC said it would lift a ban on imports of iron, steel and gold coins when parliament repeals laws classifying people by race and segregating housing and land.

The United States said the measures announced by De Klerk were "a big step" towards complying with demands which would lead to the resumption of trade. Japan also warmly welcomed the moves.

Kashmiris fight over homeland's future

KARACHI (R) — Kashmiri factions fought with bamboo staves in Pakistan's commercial capital Karachi Tuesday as the country shut down for a day of protest against Indian rule of Kashmir.

Police said two people were hurt when a group shouting "Kashmir will become part of Pakistan" confronted another chanting "Kashmir will become an independent state."

Kashmiris living in Pakistan took to the streets as Pakistanis closed shops and businesses after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif declared the day a national holiday.

Sharif urged Pakistanis to support Kashmiris fighting to overthrow Delhi's rule in the two-thirds of the mountain region constituting the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. The remaining third, Azad (Free) Kashmir, is ruled by Pakistan.

In Rawalpindi youths stoned cars and set barricades of tyres on fire.

Witnesses said riot police stood by as about 100 Kashmiris fought over their differences over whether a unified Kashmir should become independent or part of Pakistan.

More than 2,000 people died in Indian Kashmir last year as Muslim militants stepped up their armed campaign against Delhi's rule, prompting a tough security clampdown.

Pakistan denies fomenting the revolt, but Sharif said: "Kashmir is vital for the existence of Pakistan and the cause of their struggle for freedom could never be ignored."

While world attention was focused on the Gulf war, it was important to remember that Kashmir had long been suffering at India's hands, he said in a statement.

Kashmiri militants have complained that their battle has been forgotten because of the Gulf war and that funding from the Gulf region had dried up.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars since 1947 over Kashmir and came close to another last year.

Referring to United Nations calls for a plebiscite to decide the future of Kashmir, Sharif said that if U.N. decisions "could become a leverage to let loose hell in one part of the Muslim world, the sufferings of the Muslims in other parts should not be ignored to serve the motives of usurpers."

At the rally called by the right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami religious party in Rawalpindi, speakers condemned alleged Indian atrocities.

COLUMN

Rafsanjani seeks better deal for women

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani appealed Monday for greater freedom for Muslim women, saying they were hemmed in by "prejudice and wrong tradition."

"It is not merely the corrupt Western symbols in society which are dangerous for women but what really annoys them today is the absence of complete possibilities for their participation in social scenes due to prejudices and wrong traditions," he told the opening of a Tehran seminar on the proper role of dress for women.

"While avoiding any extremes, we must have a rational attitude towards women's presence in society," the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted him as saying. "Do not think clinging to (wrong) traditions is in the interest of society. Women still find it difficult to obtain many social positions," he said, adding that most women wanted to work in the arts and it was dangerous to close this field to them. "Their presence should be such that the world can witness examples of Islamic arts and women's proper presence in this arena."

Reform fever gone, Soviets fear the chill

By Mark J. Porubcansky
The Associated Press
MOSCOW — In one joke making the rounds in Moscow, a small ad appears in a local newspaper: "Will exchange Nobel Prize for Stalin Prize."

The joke, steeped like most Soviet humour in irony and classic melancholy, captures the country's gloom as the sixth year of perestroika draws to a close.

The last flickering image of President Mikhail Gorbachev as the "Soviet savior" may have died on Jan. 13 along with defenders of the Lithuanian television tower.

A president who won the Nobel Peace Prize in October and had been praised for his democratic instincts now rules largely by decree. One hand acts with increasing firmness to hold the country's 15 republics together. The other hand still shakes when it touches the levers of the economy.

The joke builds a multi-level bridge tying Gorbachev the would-be liberator, who won the Nobel Peace Prize, to the dictator Stalin.

In the past four years, even as the economy worsened, there was hope Gorbachev understood and would solve everything. That hope is gone.

"The people are tired of hunger and injustice," said Nina Lasovskaya, a journalist who joined 300,000 others at a recent Moscow rally. "The president only promises."

"The people are afraid of dictatorship," she added.

"Perestroika is over," declared a middle-aged Dmitri Seshko.

Statistics indicate deaths have increased and births decreased in the Soviet Union. The consumer economy consists largely of harder and rationing. Media that burst open with the joyful noise of glasnost are fighting new restrictions.

About 400,000 people emigrated last year and millions more have at least contemplated it.

Meanwhile, Gorbachev lost reform-minded Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and top economic advisers; fudged his reaction to the Baltic bloodshed; confiscated one-third of the money supply; broadened the power of the military and KGB in what is called a bid to control crime; and may have squandered his change to create a market economy.

Gorbachev prodigiously built compromises and coalitions between conservatives and reformers. He has won battle after battle in the Kremlin while the war to remake the country outside passed him by.

Now he is isolated and mistrusted by both sides.

As recently as July, pressed by resurgent hard-liners, he managed to guide the Communist Party congress down a centre path.

He retired Yegor K. Ligachev, his chief hard-line critic. Reformers like Shevardnadze and Alexander Yakovlev left their polit-buro jobs top spots in the government.

Gorbachev seemed to be trying to establish the dominance of the government over the Communist Party. At the same time he promoted obedient party bureaucrats.

But Shevardnadze left the government and Yakovlev's status is unclear. And it seems hard-liners and loyal bureaucrats are taking

Cambodian rebels launch big attack in northwest

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Guerrillas have launched a big offensive against government positions in northwestern Cambodia to prevent attacks on U.S.-funded development programmes, officials said Tuesday.

More than 2,000 troops of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and fighters loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk began attacking positions around the district capitals of Sray Chek and Phnom Srok in Battambang province. Monday, Liberation Front spokesman Ok Serei Sopheap said.

Western diplomats in Bangkok said the offensive was designed to cut supply lines, and extend what the guerrillas call their "liberated zone" to facilitate the implementation of a U.S.-funded development programme. U.S. officials have said long-range government artillery had been shelling the area.

The United States is pouring millions of dollars into parts of northwestern Cambodia controlled by non-Communist guerrillas. The programme, including the construction of hospitals, schools, is aimed at winning popular support for the non-Communists ahead of any peace settlement and possible U.N.-sponsored elections.

The guerrillas used two captured government tanks to attack positions on national Highway 6 and provincial Highways 68 and 69, Ok Serei Sopheap said.

He said KPNLF troops had captured four government positions as of Tuesday morning, but failed to take Sray Chek because of heavy resistance.

Government artillery in the strategic crossroads town of Sisophon forced the guerrillas to pull back from the village of Ma Kak on Highway 69, Ok Serei Sopheap said.

Ek Sereyath, spokesman for the Sihanoukist guerrillas, said that Monday, they had briefly

occupied Phnom Srok town, which straddles the junction of national Highway 6 and provincial Highway 68.

The Sihanoukists and the Liberation Front are allied with the Communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas against the government. Vietnam installed in Phnom Penh after invading in late 1979.

On Monday, the guerrillas accepted Indonesia's offer to play host to a meeting of the warring factions for further discussions on a draft U.N. peace plan. No date has been set for the meeting.

Meanwhile Cambodia's powerful National Assembly chairman, Chea Sim, has said peace is "not far away" in his country, but has not dropped objections to a United Nations plan to end 12 years of civil war.

"Peace is not very far away, therefore we must not let it get away," Chea Sim said in a speech Sunday closing an assembly session. An Cambodian News Agency (SPK) report was seen in Bangkok Tuesday.

Che Sim accused the international community of encouraging a return to power by the radical Khmer Rouge because of weaknesses in the U.N. plan.

His comments came as war spilled again on the Thai border and Indonesian and French envoys passed through the region to try to nudge the various Cambodian factions and their international backers back to the negotiating table.

However, Chea Sim said the military and political status quo should be maintained until elections could be held.

He objected to the planned U.N. transitional authority assuming governing powers over Cambodia.

These should rest with the Supreme National Council, already set up with representatives of Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government and the three guerrilla factions allied against it.

Brazilian union leader killed in Amazon state

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A lone gunman shot to death union leader who defended poor rural workers against wealthy landowners in the remote Brazilian Amazon, human rights advocates have said.

They said the gunman pumped three bullets into Expedito Ribeiro de Souza's head Saturday night near his home in the jungle town of Rio Maria in the northwestern state of Para.

The killing recalls the 1988 killing of Chico Mendes, the leader of the Rubber Tappers Union in the Amazon state of Acre.

"Union members believe that large landowners in the area hired a gunman to kill De Souza," said Inez Ethne, a spokeswoman for the Catholic Church's Pastoral Land Commission. She said witnesses to the murder were too scared to speak to police.

Six weeks ago two ranchers were convicted of murdering Mendes in a trial that drew world attention to the plight of rural workers in Brazil and the destruction of the Amazon rainforest.

The death of De Souza, a 43-year-old father of nine, follows the killings of four other union members in Rio Maria last April. Ethne said De Souza's life had been threatened several times in the past two years.

Anna De Souza Pinto, a Pastoral Land Commission official in Rio Maria, said the threats were brought to the attention of then-Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral in April following the murders of the other four union members. Justice Ministry officials could not be reached for comment.

According to the land commission, only 17 cases have been brought to trial out of 1,566 killings since 1964.

De Souza was a member of the Communist Party of Brazil and president of the Union of Rural Workers in Rio Maria. Sueli Belato, one of the prosecutors in the Mendes trial, will be brought to the state of Para to follow the police inquiry into his death, Pinto said.

Dutch seize 700kg of cocaine

ROTTERDAM (R) — Dutch police made their second-biggest seizure of cocaine when 700 kilograms of the drug was found suspended in barrels of tar, a police spokesman said. The cocaine, with an estimated street value of more than \$42 million, arrived on a cargo ship from Trinidad. Police trailed it to a barn in the countryside and arrested eight men who came to unpack the barrels. "Tar is cheap here... we became suspicious when we saw a lot being shipped here," said police spokesman Otto Beajon. Dutch police scored their biggest cocaine seizure last year when smugglers tried to conceal 2,100 kilograms of the drug in barrels of fruit juice. Dutch authorities believe drug traffickers are targeting the Netherlands as a main entry port for Europe.

Gold smuggler nabbed after feud with girlfriend

NEW DELHI (AP) — Doctors examining the X-ray of a man shot by his jilted fiancée found eight gold pieces he had swallowed in a smuggling bid, newspapers reported. Taranjit Singh was arrested on smuggling charges while still in the hospital, the Hindustan Times said. His fiancée, Satinder Kaur, who turned the gun on herself after shooting Singh, is in the same hospital. She faces charges of attempted murder, the newspaper said. Singh, 22, allegedly swallowed the gold while on a holiday in Hong Kong, the newspaper said. He visited Ms. Kaur, 18, and told her their engagement was off because his family was opposed to the marriage. She pulled out a revolver, shot him in the chest and then shot herself. The two were taken to a hospital, where doctors took an X-ray of Singh and discovered the gold. It was removed after an operation. Gold prices in India are about one-third more than international prices. Prices have risen more in recent weeks because of the Gulf war. Most gold brought into India is purchased in Dubai or other cities in the Gulf.

6 bombs found at storage tanks near U.S. base

WASHINGTON (R) — Six pipe bombs attached to inflammable storage tanks were found in a commercial port area in Norfolk, Virginia, near America's largest navy base, U.S. officials said.

Officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said two explosive devices had been removed from the methanol tanks at the Allied Terminal Co. and that four other devices were also being dismantled.

The officials said no one had claimed responsibility for the bombs. It was not known if there were any suspects.

The officials said it was premature to comment on the sophistication of the bombs.

U.S. security has been stepped up in an effort to prevent possible Iraq-inspired attacks. Norfolk is the home of the largest U.S. Navy base, just 11 kilometres from where the bombs were found.

Iraq has threatened to unleash

'A healthy woman can resist rape'

SINGAPORE — More than half of Singapore's police think a healthy woman can resist rape if she really tries, according to a study published in a local newspaper. The study by the National University of Singapore, published in the Sunday Times, said 57 per cent of the police force thought the extent of a woman's resistance should be the major factor in determining whether a rape has occurred. Just under half said a woman who goes out at night alone puts herself in a position to be raped and more than 11 per cent said it would do some women good to be raped. Police figures show there were 112 rapes in Singapore in 1990, up from 100 the year before. More than one-third of these cases were classified as "doubtful." The university study included lawyers, doctors, social workers and psychologists. It said 22 per cent of lawyers, 27 per cent of doctors and 19 per cent of social workers and psychologists in Singapore believed women could resist rape if they tried. Nearly 67 per cent of the doctors surveyed agreed that a woman who goes out at night alone puts herself in a position to be raped.

Italy's ex-Communist party in deep crisis

ROME (R) — The new Italian party which hopes to inherit the votes of 10 million Communists was left leaderless and deeply split Tuesday only a day after rising from the ashes of what was the West's largest Communist Party.

Achille Occhetto, the last Italian Communist Party leader and the man who masterminded its break with communism, said he would not stand for office again after failing to win election as head of the new Democratic Party of the left (PDS).

Occhetto, who pushed through the creation of the PDS Sunday at the Italian Communists' final congress, accused his opponents of acting irresponsibly by showing up divisions right at the very birth of the new party.

"As far as I am concerned, I am not a candidate," a disappointed Occhetto, 54, said in a statement after his defeat. The only candidate for the PDS leader's job, he fell eight votes short of the absolute majority required.

Occhetto, who took over as Communist Party leader in June 1988, said he felt he still had a majority in the new party and blamed his setback on a technicality. "What has happened is fairly

Global warming conference seeks accord on new strategy

WASHINGTON (R) — Delegates from 130 nations have begun negotiations on a new international agreement they hope will limit greenhouse effect gas emissions and avert a potentially disastrous warming of the Earth's climate.

The delegates hope to agree on the scientific and economic research still needed to gauge the impact of global warming as well as to negotiate a plan for international action based on scientists' current understanding of the problem.

The delegates' goal is to complete the plan in time for it to be signed at the U.N. conference on the environment and development scheduled for 1992 in Brazil.

This initial drafting session, which continues through Feb. 14, was convened by the United Nations.

The United States take the challenge of global stewardship very seriously and believes that these negotiations offer the

opportunity to structure an important vehicle for cooperation toward that end," President George Bush said in a letter to delegates distributed at the conference's opening session.

Despite years of intense concern about the world, the global warming problem remains poorly understood by scientists.

Some predict a warming of sufficient magnitude to kill off many species of plants and animals, melt the polar icecaps and flood many of the world's largest cities.

Others see the higher temperatures and greater concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as a boon to farmers with little harm to the environment.

In past conferences on global climate change, the United States — along with Japan and the Soviet Union, among others — has pressed for additional research and resisted any mandatory global action plan to head off a warming trend.

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